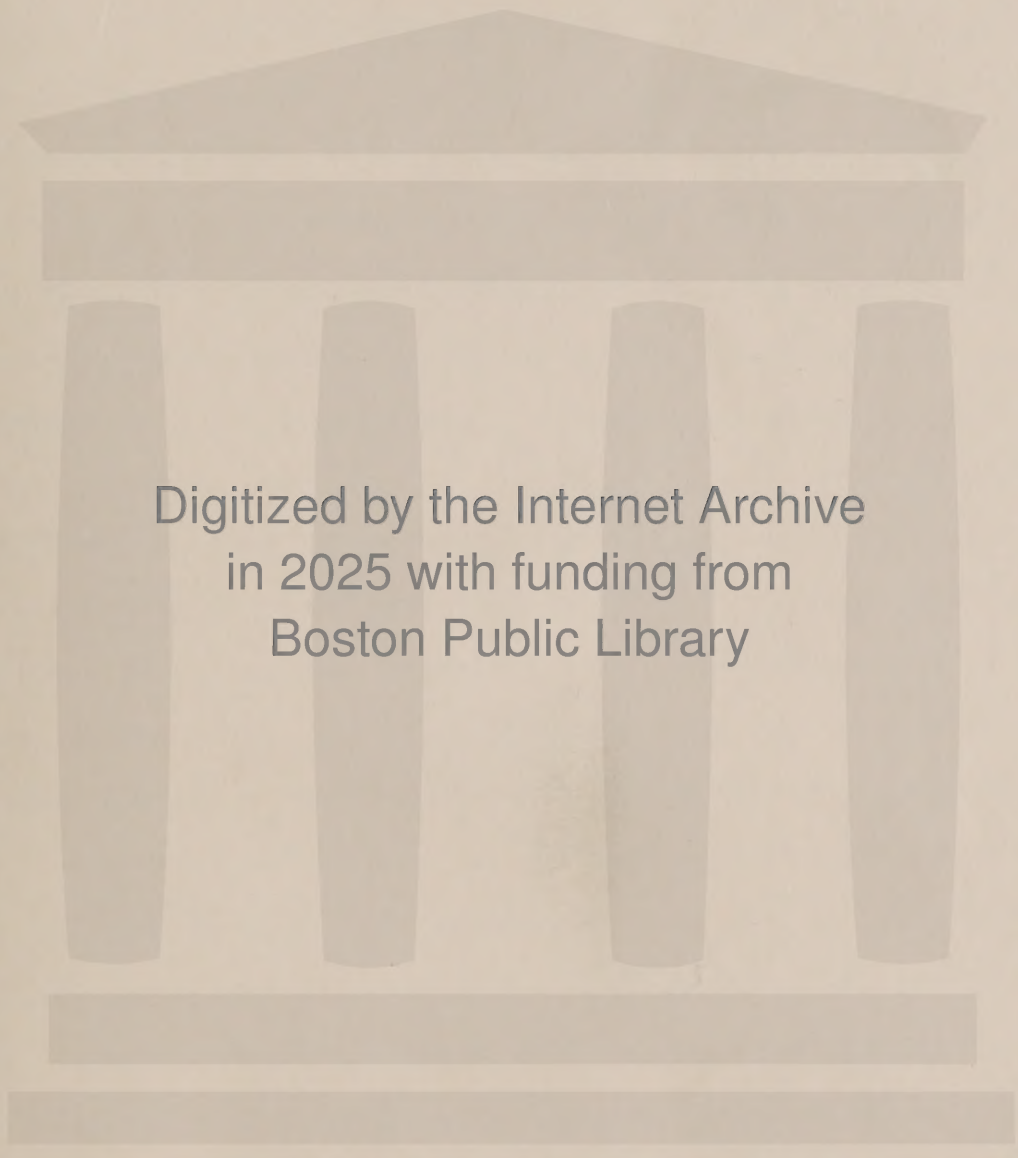
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My dear friend

How happy should I feel to fulfill your request, & the promise I made you to write occasionally when we last seperated, you to enjoy the mild & peaceful blessings which are only found in the bosom of a domestic life - I, to join the worthy sons of Neptune to share in a perilous war on his wide domain, the good or bad fortune of a Sailor, onboard of that ship which have already twice hurled the proud cross of Albion from its supposed inaccessible height - I should indeed feel a pleasure in gratifying a friend whom I so highly esteem, whose disinterest kindness will ever be remembered with the most pleasing satisfaction, when I promised to address you I did it without much reflection or deliberation, you must not therefore expect any thing interesting - you may possibly be amused at a little how - you know too well my good friend that my inexperience, & total neglect in earlier days has altogether disqualified me for so pleasing a task; which would have been otherwise, had I received those advantages which the respectability of our family intitled me to - & which never occurs to me without producing the most painful recollections - I am therefore obliged to address you in the plain & simple language of an untutored Sailor, little understood in the polished circles of refined societies - but as it is intended only for the eye of a friend; whose generous soul is willing to overlook the errors of him who is absent, I have nothing to fear - with all my faults I hope I expect you will give me credit for candour -

which will in some measure counterbalance the innumerable imperfections which will most undoubtedly appear at the first glance of your scrutinizing eye – The letters however which I may address to you will be dictated by the heart, & as I have before, the liberality of yours will I am confident know how to appreciate them –

I shall merely relate the little circumstances that may come within my observation which in my opinion would be pleasing to you, such as occurrences at sea – a description of the ports & principal cities that I may visit at any time, & in different parts of the globe – I shall take a copy of my letters which will in some future day afford to myself the gratification of reviewing the scenes of past life – I shall make no further apology for my present style, because you are well acquainted with the busy scenes of a seafaring life & the interruptions that so frequently occur, particularly onboard of a man of war –

U. S. Frigate Constitution 1813.

My dear friend

Our ship is completely repaired & ready for service, we only want the orders daily expected from the Secretary of the Navy, to proceed immediately to sea, you can well imagine how anxiously I look forward to the moment when we shall unfurl our sails & launch into the bosom of the ocean, after having been kept so long in suspense, it is like emancipation from slavery, to have my name enrolled on the list with this gallant crew, & be permitted to serve my country in a ship which has already so eminently distinguished herself as old Ironsides; a name which has been given her by the sailors, supposing that her sides are impenetrable, from the circumstance of very few shot having as yet penetrated her sides —

We can form no correct Idea as yet of what our intended cruise will be, it is to be hoped however it will be a long & successful one, the activity of it will of course depend much upon the commander, whose character stands high in the estimation of government & we expect much from his exertions

Having attained the object of my most unbounded wishes, in gaining admission into our little Navy (which you know is extremely difficult in consequence of the great number of applicants from all parts of the union) my next wish is to get into action, my feelings on this subject is indescribable, it appears to me at present, that a man must be happy who sacrifices every thing for his country — my ambition leads me this way, & should I be so fortunate as to prove serviceable to my country I shall be in the zenith of my glory — at the end of this cruise you shall hear from me again ——

U. S. Frigate Constitution

My dear Friend

We sailed from Boston on the 29th Dec with a strong north west wind, with our crew of four hundred & eighty, as fine & healthy a set of fellows, & in as good spirits, as ever walked a ships deck - we passed the light house about sun-down, being stationed before myself, I was priv=iliged the melancholy pleasure of taking a last look of the surrounding scenery - the next morning I succeeded in getting upon the gun deck, notwithstanding I was extremely weak, & the motion of the ships was so great as to preclude the possibility of any one walking the deck without supp=orting themselves - when I looked out of the port & saw nothing but one wide waste of sky & water, with the tempestuous sea dashing its angry waves against the side of the ship, unceremoniously tossing her from wave to wave, as tho' she had been a light boat - ——, this scene struck me as one of awful grandeur & it did not lessen itself in any degree, when I reflected on the astonishing transition that had taken place in the short space of eighteen hours, but yesterday we lay calmly moored in the harbour with no more motion than the hills that surrounded us, & where are we now? dashing about at the mercy of the winds & waves, & him who made us

We mustered nearly the whole month without meeting any capitues, the crew all this time murmuring like so many devils, that the Shannon did not face us with a frigate, at length we might see have some reason to suspect that fortune would once more smile upon this gallant little band - about ten o'clock we found ourselves close along side two vessels, it being thick to ascertain immediately what they were, but to greaters

immediately & cleared ship for action — this was the moment which I have most wished to experience, to know what my own feelings on such an occasion would be — however I did not it necessary at this time to put them to the test, as the vessels we have seen proved to be His Majesties Schooner Victor, of fourteen guns & sixty men convoying a merchantman, we continued the merchant vessel company, the next morning the Schooner — after taking out the prisoners & paroling them, Captain Stewart made a cartel of the merchant vessel (Lovely Ann) & sent them all onboard of her as prisoners of war —

I have received the following instructions from Captain Stewart —

U S Frigate Constitution
at Sea February 14th 1814

Sir

You will proceed with the cartel Ship Lovely Ann to Bridgetown, Barbadoes, and deliver over to his Brittanic Majesty's Agent for prisoners of War, at that place the crew of the Schooner Victor taken by this Ship and paroled. You will obtain a receipt for the officers Seamen & Marines — so delivered & proceed to the United States, as early as possible & deliver the same to the Secretary of the Navy

Respectfully Sir,

Your obedient Servant —

Signed Chs Stewart

Midshipman

P. M. Whipple

P.S. The enclosed parole you will take care to procure & deliver to the Secretary of the Navy

Parole of Honor

We the Undersigned Prisoners of War to the United States of America, taken on board His Britannic Majesty's Schooner Picton - do hereby, in consideration of our release on parole, promise on oath, and pledge each our words and honor, not to bear arms in the service of Great Britain, against the United States of America, or commit any act of hostility, or serve in any civil or military capacity against the said United States, or any enemy of Great Britain until we are duly exchanged - In Witness whereof we do hereunto affix each his respective signature -

Done on board the United States Frigate Constitution, at Sea, this fourteenth day of February A.D. one thousand eight hundred and fourteen

J Stephens Lt & Commander
Wm White Master
J Johnson Mate
T. Whittle Mate
G Hammond Mate
J C Wilson
Chs Jos Royer

Here follows a list of the names of the whole ship company

I hereby certify the above named persons have severally this day signed the within written Parole & were sworn to the same in my presence

Witness my signature

J Stephens Lieut & Com.

You know my dear sir, with what enthusiasm I entered the service, how fondly I looked forward to the moment when we should meet the enemy, being on the very grounds where we might reasonably expect to fall in with some of her cruising Frigates, judge then what must have been my disappointment when I received orders to take charge of the prisoners & leave the Ship at this interesting moment, when I had expected to gain so much; all my hopes were blasted at one stroke, I found there was no alternative, therefore I submitted to my fate with as good a grace as I could assume — in the evening as we were about taking leave of the Constitution we discovered that they had set the prize afire, about dark she blew up with a tremendous explosion it was truly a magnificent sight — the following day we arrived at Barbados in the Lat of 13°-01 N Long 59°-36 W — I was received with great politeness & attention by the American Agent for prisoners of war — Hon. H Storm Esqr — in a few days I was presented to His Excellency Sir George Beckwith the Governor who received me with great civility, I discovered however that he suspected I had come in an assumed character, but on presenting my orders from Captain Stewart, at the same time assuring him that I had received no others either verbal or written, he was perfectly satisfied — Not so with the Admiral, Sir Charles Dashwood — I found he was inclined to be unreasonable & vindictive, & insisted upon it that I was a spy, & must go to prison without delay — having come in with prisoners & being a new officer myself I came more immediately under his jurisdiction than the Gov! consequently apprehended some danger, he appointed the mission to the Physicians in general — he would listen to no reason, but threatened a more severe measure, the prisoners of war not withstanding their Parole of honor should go on duty immediately, the officers refused to obey the

August 8 inconsistent mandate. Though the influence of the Govr & was permitted to ride out & make free use of the Islands, but must not leave it without a passport & that would not be granted me until they were certain the Constitution had arrived in America

I will here enclose you my report to Captain Stewart of this my return, which will give you a correct Idea of my situation

U. S. Frigate Constitution
Boston harbour August 1814

Charles Stewart Esquire
Commander of the U.S.F. Constitution

Sir

Agreably to your orders of the 14th of February last I proceeded with the cartel Ship Lovely Ann - having onboard the crew of the British schooner Picton, to Barbadoes where I arrived on the 18th of the same month - Immediately on my arrival I was presented by J. H. Storer Esquire American Agent residing there - to Rear Admiral Durham with whom we attempted to effect an exchange of Prisoners & obtain a receipt for those sent in by your orders -

The Admiral however refused positively to acknowledge the Lovely Ann as a Cartel or to permit any American seamen to leave the Island - alleging for reasons, that it was contrary to the policy of the British Government to allow cartels of this description - as by doing it they would enable the American Frigates to remain at sea for years - this new system of warfare was regarded by the said Administration onboard of the Constitution, or to the agreement entered into by the two Governments, they were immediately ordered into British service - the officers refusing to enter were ordered onboard

I [illegible] after my arrival in Bridgetown I had an interview with Sir George Beckwith Governor of the Island who with much civility intimated to me that on account of the critical situation in which I was placed & the suspicions that might arise from my coming to the Island in a capacity which was not acknowledged by this Court & not accorded to by the Treaties - he suggested that he should be under the disagreeable necessity of obliging me to take a Parole - but in consideration of my having acted in obedience to my orders from Capt Stewart & the respect he entertained for my private character he would endeavour to make my parole & allow me greater indulgences than were usually granted to Prisoners of War

On producing my orders from you Sir which he desired to see, & assuring him that I had received no other either written or verbal, he thought himself not to hold me as a prisoner of War

Still however on my joining my ship while she was in the West Indies was, would be inconsistent with those precautions which a state of war indispensibly required, he thought it his duty to detain me until he should learn the Constitutional pleasure of his sovereign - to this order I found myself obliged to submit, & after a detention of three months & nine days, during which time I received from Sir George Beckwith every attention which politeness or humanity could dictate, I was permitted to leave the Island & depart for the United States.

I have now Sir laid before you the obstacles that prevented a due execution of your orders, relative to the exchange of Prisoners, & for my being unable to join the ship sooner

I am Sir Respectfully
Your most obt Servt

Charles Stewart Esqr
Comdg U.S. Frigate Constitution

C M Whipple

I took my departure from Barbadoes about the first of June, in the Ship Bridgetown, Capt Duncan, we touched at St Thomas, the Islands of Bermudas, & arrived at Halifax after a fair passage, it was my intention to have returned from here in one of the coasters but there being a convoy ready for St John, we were ordered immediately to get under weigh & proceed to that place, where I was obliged to renew my passport for the U S. — I remained about ten days, St Johns lies at the head of the Bay of Fundy, Lat about 45° N, Long 67° W — a place where the English get much of their ship timber — during the war it was filled with smugglers from the U S. — I left here & proceeded to Grand Island, nine days after the English squadron took possession of it under Sir Thos Hardy — my desire was so great to see a line of Battle ship that I could not resist the temptation of accompanying a party onboard, (the Ramillies,) the flag ship — notwithstanding the risk I run in being exposed as an American officer, the consequences would have been extremely unpleasant — My route from here to Boston was extremely hazardous on account of the enemys cruisers along shore, plundering every thing that came in their way, I therefore was obliged to steer along through the night, sometimes in boats & sometimes inshore, until we reached the first stage at Belfast where I was enabled to get some rest, & relief from the marauders along our coast — I reached Boston in good time happy I assure you to find myself safe under the guns of dear Louisiana again — may God bless & protect you is the sincere wish of your affectionate — H H

U. S. Frigate Constitution

New York 1815

My dear friend

It gives me much pleasure to inform of my safe arrival once more in the bosom of Liberty after a successful cruise of nearly six months, the particulars of which take the liberty to state you without much embellishment— we left Boston under circumstances very similar to our former cruise, both times we run out in the night & eluded the enemy who were blockading us— Our first prize was made about a week out, her name being the Lord Nelson seemed ominous among the sailors, who said that if we captured a Lord so soon, our cruise would be successful —

We next made a capture on the coast of Portugal which we man'd & sent in, & have now just reaped the golden fruits, which is much the sweetest part of Warfare, unfortunately however not without the ruin of a fellow being, who was a jolly Scotchman & got most gloriously drunk the night after the capture & consoled himself with the common remark that it was the fortune of war— onboard of this vessel we found two fine young Tigers, which have in some measure domesticated & were of great amusement to the Sailors —

We next steered our course towards Madeira & had almost begun to despair of meeting with success — an attempt discovered a sail whence instantly all onboard was commotion, to give you a better idea of the result of this discovery I will give you the contents from this log book —

Remarks on board the United States
Frigate Constitution Tuesday Feb 14th 1815
Latitude 33° 17' N Longitude 13° 05' W
Charles Stewart Esquire Commander

Commences with light breezes from the Eastward & cloudy
at 1 P.M discovered a strange sail two points on the Larboard
bow hauled up & made sail in chase, at ½ past 1 made her
out to be a ship. at ¾ past 1 made another strange sail
ahead, at 2 P.M made them out two ships close hauled
upon the Starboard tacks at 4 the ship to windward
bore up & made signals to her consort then about ten
miles distant & made all sail in chase. set fore & main top
gallant & royal studdingsails, at ½ past 4 carried away our
main royal mast, with a man on the Larboard yard
arm who fortunately saved himself by the yard lodging on
the main top gallant stay, took in the sail & prepared
another mast — at 5 P.M commenced firing upon the
chase from our two Larboard bow guns — our shot falling
short, ceased firing = at ½ past 5 finding it impossible
to prevent them from uniting — cleared ship for action
then about 4 miles from the two ships — at 40 minutes
past 5 they passed within hail of each other, & hauled
upon a wind with their Starboard tacks onboard
hauled up their courses & prepared to receive us, having
previously had communication by signal, both ships
manoevering to gain the weather gauge, without
success, at 55 minutes past 5 we gaining fast upon
them, shortened sail & formed in line abreast about
one cable length from each other — at 6 having
them under the command of our battery, hoisted
the American colors, which was immediately answered
by both ships hoisting English — at 5 minutes past
6 ranged along side the Commodore ship —

commenced the action with two guns which was returned with great spirit from the enemy by broad sides, at 20 min past 6 the enemy's fire slackened & the great columns of smoke collected under our lee induced us to cease our fire & ascertain their position & condition, we found ourselves of the headmost ship, the other lugging up to gain a position on our quarter we poured a broadside into the headmost ship, then braced aback our main & mizen topsail which brought us under cover of the smoke, with the other ship right ahead —

The action again became general & was continued with great spirit & considerable effect until 35 minutes past 6 when the enemy's fire again slackened, & we discovered the headmost ship bearing up, filled our topsails shot ahead & gave her two stern rakes; the sternmost ship bearing at the same time, wore ship immediately after her & gave her a stern rake, she lugging too on our starboard bow gave us a broadside, we ranged up on her larboard quarter within hail & was about giving her a starboard broadside when she struck

At 50 minutes past 6 took possession of His Majesty's Ship Cyane, mounting thirty four carriage guns — commanded by Gordon Falcon Esquire —

Set & filled away with her consort in sight to leeward. at 8 past 8 joined her steering under the stern of the latter which carried away with the gallant mast & sails flying — at 40 minutes past 8 ranged close along side on opposite tacks, still to windward exchanged two broadsides, bore up immediately under her stern & gave her a raking broadside, she then crowded all sail & endeavoured to escape by wearing hauled onboard our tacks set the spanker, flying jib &c at 9 past 9 commenced firing upon her with our starboard bow chasers, gave her several shot which cut her stays & rigging considerably —

It is minds part of ranges along nave & haine her. & ascertain
of the hud surrendered, the armed in the afternoon
we immediately took possession of His Majesty's Ship Levant
mounting 21 guns, Commanded by the Hon.ble George Douglas
our boats were employed during the principal part of
the night removing prisoners & repairing damages, so that
by low morning we were enabled to make some sail
on the prize - the Constitution was so little injured
& the damages were repaired with such expedition
that in one hour after the close of this action she was
ready for another -

Being in one of the boats that
night I had a good opportunity of ascertaining the
injury we had done them, which was very considerable
during so short a time that we were engaged - I was
now charge of a boat removing prisoners from the Cyane
& afterwards from the Levant, I remained onboard
of that vessel two days - the decks of both vessels were
literally covered with dead & wounded, which amounted
to between ... [illegible]

Their shrouds & rigging were very much cut
to pieces, particularly the Levant whose mizen mast
& all the appendages above were wounded or carried
away - several shots between wind & water, - It is true
the last action I was ever in, you can imagine to
yourself what were my feeling to hear the horrid groans
of the wounded & dying, & this scene that presented
itself the next morning, at daylight on board of the
Levant, The quarter deck seemed to resemble the slaughter
of a [illegible] - Dead bodies, here covered
with [illegible] & wounded all around at
[illegible] - here a head there was severed with
[illegible] - arms; legs; pieces of thighs, fingers & large
pieces of flesh, were strewed up & down on the deck

Prize as long time after I made signal should have
& if possible now have seen last Antelope, in a few
days we were enabled to get our prize in Tobacco ports of
main Point of Trinidad —

In consequence of the thick blo
=cades of the whole of our coast, it was thought there would
be but great risk to pursue our cruise for the ensuing Week
however anxious we were to get our prize into port, to
our universal regret Captain Stewart considered it
would be more prudent to proceed to some of the southern
Islands & cruise for prizes, at the conclusion of which
time, peace between the two Governments would probably
take place, & we should by that means obtain a good
chance of seeing our friends, Capt ordered it therefore
to be steered for the Cape de Verds, there we accordingly
the 14th of March. (Port Praya, Lat 14° 54. S Long 23° 30' W
London time of the prizes ship & other memorandum

To give you a little idea of the transactions
which took place the following day I shall send
you an extract from the log book —

Laying in Port Praya Roadstead first time
& Thick hazy weather — At 5 minutes past Meridian
discovered a large sail steering with great — at 8 minutes
past 12 saw two more large ships also steering in,
from their signals supposed them to be one of
the enemy's squadron; the signal was immediately
made to the Spume & Levant to get under weigh, at 12
minutes past 12 Thetis hove the Spume & cut the
cable, the prize ship following our motions, stood
out of the roads close under the western point within
gunshot of the enemys ships to windward — carried a —
top gallant yards, as the enemy seeing us under weigh stood
all sail in chase — set top gallant sail —

11 A.M. last manoeuvre out away the boats astern, got first cutter, at 1 P.M. in paired was sailing about equal to the ship on our lee quarter, but the frigate when upping her yards made a gaining post upon the Cyane, made the signal at 2 minutes 1 for her to take us, which the enemies with immediately — the enemy did not notice this manoeuvre but continued in full chase after this ship & the Levant, the ship on our quarter commenced firing of decimus the shot, still very considerably short — The two ships on the quarter were both two decks, the one astern a frigate — at 3 P.M. the Levant -ning dropping just astern & her situation becoming dangerous inconsequence of the Frigate gaining fast upon her, & the Capt. apprehensive that should she be brought to action in company with the Constitution it might encourage the latter ship, Captain found himself in the necessity of recognising the Levant to come her, the signal was made for her to tack which was promptly obeyed & notwithstanding as it may appear to every brave man the enemy's manoeuvre tactics in succession after the Levant & abandonment the Constitution, which it was reasonably supposed by the audacious, were the English ships that had the most staying, without the Levant she must have inevitably fallen into their hands — they the Englishmen raised like mad men when this circumstance took place — as the Cyane was furnished to sail without molestation she was drawn to the Eastward of this Island first, in order to make sail for the Island Mayo where she arrived in due season — but as Levant Fire from Levant she was chased to this Island squadron took into Port Praya where the Americans close under the guns of the fortifications, presuming that she would be captured prize at last; however not the least violence was made by the Portuguese

when the enemy's squadron came in & succeeding, fired
his broadside into this little sloop of war, & what was
more disgraceful to those distinguished commanders, one
of the broadside men fired into the ports of our own
humane crew — Fortunately several of the Portuguese were
killed & wounded on board of their own vessel immediately
injured, & fortunately, because they were such a desperate
set of villains & cut throats, were not easily to have —

This villainous English squadron consisted of the afore-
=said Count the Leander, Captain Sir Geo. O'Brien —
the said Seattle, Captain Lord George Stuart — the
Acosta Frigate Captain Kerr —

After we had anchored in Port Prayer
roads we soon had reason to suppose there would be some difficulty
with the government about leaving the prisoners, & there
being an English Brig in the roads we were advertised
for the purpose of conveying them to the next Brit-
-ish Port, that we were getting men ready to
serve the enemy squadron, our master the re-
-mainder of said Brig preparing her for the
prisoners — the moment the Portuguese saw her un-
-der weigh they commenced their fire upon the
Fort & the Centinels on board us: upon
which we represented that they were under the impression
that it was our intention to break the neutrality of the
port by taking out this English Brig, & therefore wished to
protect her — they were not however to be intimidated in exec-
-uting this villainy, & the Leander came in & was
permitted to be taken from under the very muzzles of their guns.

In consequence of our situation, & above from
the Cape de Verds we were not able to have but few
of the prisoners — the Dept then ordered to run over to
the coast of Brazils — but made no port until
St. Louis de Maranham about the 5 of [illegible]

St Louis, Oc. 1st 1812 = We have succeeded in landing our prisoners much to the satisfaction of all onboard after remaining here about ten days we took our departure on the 6 ulto touched at the port St Johns Island of Porto Rico, where we got American papers, here we learnt with certainty that the heads of your last were agreeable the most welcome news that I ever received, here we first heard of the battle of Sandusky — we arrived in this port yesterday in high health & spirits & cannot sufficiently be grateful to the Almighty for the blessings of Liberty — I have only to request you will present my respects to your family & colleagues & to assure them that it was impossible to contain it & that I could do without any attention & run the risk of its meeting with your disapprobation —

Affectionately your dr sr

H. H. Hull

U S Frigate Constitution

Boston June 1815

My dear friend

Since we have been in this port about ten days, we received orders from the Department to proceed to this port with our ship, I believe this was pleasing intelligence to all onboard, but to tell you the truth I was not that attention paid to the Capt & officers in general which we conceived to be due them, after a long & perilous cruize — by my division the ordinary hour is all a humbug at least I am sure of mine — those who were particular must have been both [illegible] the [illegible] hour of gun, when we hoisted our colors flying, I manned my yards in the forenoon & even ordered my men down to the [illegible] of the hour — a contribution of a large amount of officers who came to meet us when this report was attributed to my having

U. S. Ship Washington

Portsmouth harbour 1815

My dear friend

You will perceive by the date of this letter that I have changed ships — I received orders a few days since to join the Washington under the command of Com.r Chauncey, now fitting out at this port, she is one of the finest ships that ever floated & if we may judge from the formidable appearance she now makes, there is no fear that she will ever disgrace the name she bears — it reported the Washington is destined for the Mediterranean service, but will not probably sail before next spring.

Notwithstanding I have so fine a ship under me, I could not leave my dear one without seriously regretting it, she has been a good friend to many as worthy, for I carried them through long & perilous cruises, & done more honor to herself than any other ship in the navy remember me most respectfully to the ladies & believe me most sincerely your

Truly Obt. Servt.

U. S. Ship Washington

Gibraltar Bay 1816

My dear friend

My anticipations were correct & we have remained thus far on our destined cruising ground, but I am too far ahead of my story, & must go back at short time & inform you what took place before I left America, my last was dated from Portsmouth which place we left in Dec.r for Boston where we filled up our crew, & provision & went to sea — & unpleasant winter passage, the ship for sea — in April we sailed for Naples where we took in Lt.r Bainbridge & family

Minister for Foreign Affairs at Gibraltar — we were here visited by the President of the U.S. & the heads of the Department of State, Navy & Army — on the 9th of May sailed from the Chesapeake, & after a pleasant passage of 22 days arrived in this port —

Gibraltar is supposed to be the strongest fortified place in the world, mounting eight hundred pieces of ordnance in good condition; it lies in Latitude 36° 8' North Longitude 5° 19' west — it was anciently called mons-Calpe & forms together with, Abyla on the African shore the pillars of Hercules of old — it is held in high esteem by the english Government, as it is considered the key to the mediterranean notwithstanding it is twelve miles from shore to shore, & vessels may pass without molestation from their guns with a fair wind — It is altogether a most wonderful piece of Nature's works, the northern part is a perpendicular height of one seventeen hundred feet from the level of the sea; the eastern part is also nearly perpendicular, the whole length of the fortifications sitting in the western side from the excavation to europa point, which presents a formidable appearance indeed — The principal curiosities consist in the caves the one most worthy of notice is St Michael, which contains the remarkable quality of petrifaction of water, which runs down from the roof and forms complete masses according to their moulds, until it reaches the bottom & becomes in equal pillars — the extent of this cave has never been truly ascertained, it is however very great — the day we were there the largest fleet in the world was lying in the harbour — the anchorage is good, that is to say good holding ground, but exposed to a south westerly wind — it requires for vessels to lay there, in the winter season — the climate is generally mild & healthy — the inhabitants are composed of a heterogeneous collection of all nations, & it is necessary to speak the Spanish & more the variety of Costumes —

U.S. Ship Washington

Bay of Naples 1815

My dear friend

I felt much pleasure in dating my first letter in the Mediterranean from this celebrated city, our passage from Gibraltar did not exceed four days, a quicker perhaps never known — we arrived here on the 15th of July — we are obliged to submit to a quarantine of 15 days which is extremely irksome — the city lies in Latitude 40° 51' North Longitude 14° 18' East

The beautiful scenery which is here combined in one prospect demands particular notice, I will attempt to describe it to you, but it will be done in such faint colors as hardly to give a correct idea of what it really deserves —

As we advance into the bay we leave Gaeta & Baiae on our left, then are two fine Islands celebrated in ancient times as having been the favourite retreat of many of the Roman Emperors — the Promontory of Misenum next comes in view, forming a bay of the same name, where Ulysses lay anchored with the Roman fleet, during the great eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 years after Christ & when Pompeii & Herculaneum were destroyed & when he lost his life in attempting to rescue the inhabitants — we also commence the famous Bay of Baiae, where are now the ruins of the villas of Caesar, Cicero, Pompey, Augustus & many more characters equally conspicuous — where once stood the city of St Julian destroyed by an Earth quake, but Baths of Nero — Temples of different descriptions, together with many other ruins, which would fatigue you to detail — At this time the sea was perfectly smooth & unruffled & we glided gently into the bay — here Nature Paramount made a beautiful — picturesque appearance continuing to extend along the coast covered with rural cottages, gardens & vineyards — these to make the scene more complete, Villas in all its various forms as far

[illegible] one view, one immense line of white edifices stretching over the mountain, in the rear of which is seen at times, towering into the heavens from above the other buildings, the neighbouring hills & surrounding country, one mass with villages, Convents, & churches &c &c — At the head of the bay, you beholde mount Vesuvius with its flaming top rising among the clouds — at the base towards the sea seventy feet below the surface of the earth, & directly beneath the city of Portici — lies the ancient city of Herculaneum — destroyed by the lava in the year 79 of the christ — the means by which it was discovered, was altogether accidental, a Peasant digging a well found several pieces of marble which excited curiosity, & induced them to continue their excavations, & thus they came to the Theatre, by which means they knew it to be Herculaneum —

About ten miles from this, & partly on the other side of the mountain, four or five miles from the sea, lies Pompeii, destroyed by the ashes of the Lava which covered Herculaneum — many streets have been cleared to view, & houses cleared of their rubbish & restored in some measure to their original appearance, most of them having preserved their shape, the roof only having fallen in — many public edifices seem very perfect, when I was there, they had formed a temple supposed to be of Isis & were reinstating its pillars & other ornaments, which it began to assume a respectable appearance — the tombs of the Gladiators are more perfect than any other building — the streets look as natural that I could hardly realize that they had been buried seventeen hundred years, the stones worn by the carriage wheels seemed as tho' they were still in use

What a field for contemplation is here for a mind capable of reflecting on so sublime a subject. I felt a degree of awe in turning them sheets & viewing the surrounding objects, which had been buried in the earth nearly two thousand years, during which time, so many revolutions have taken place - new worlds discovered - kingdoms won & lost - cities totally destroyed - & here Pompeii is re born again - some of the houses were one half of them exposed, the other still remaining in the bank the top not more than four or five feet from the surface of the earth, where would be large trees, vineyards & cultivated orchards of fruit trees - I left this spot with much regret - we came almost up to the ruins with our ship boat in the river which runs from underneath a part of the city - it is a beautiful stream & leads a serpentine course into the Bay - On the opposite side of the bay of Naples commences the Apennines, stretching along into the interior until they are lost in distance - Castles, monasteries & a great number of towns & villages spreading over the side of the hill & tends to increase the perspective & form a very distant but delightful landscape, until it terminates in the promontory of Minerva - which is the extreme point of land, & finally the Island of Capri a short distance from the main closes the scene & makes the bay complete -

During our stay here I visited the principal curiosities in & about Naples - Among the Palaces gardens & Convents which I have received my visits - it is about six miles from Naples - it is one of two distinct mountains one called Somma the other Vesuvius - Somma is covered with fertile fields & gardens - the top of Vesuvius is one continued field of burning embers - its height from the level of the sea is 8780 feet perpendicular - the road leading to the top is very rough, but of a gradual ascent, for about four miles, until you reach the foot of the cone - it then

becomes very steep & difficult of accesp. after the horseman reaches the top, you are richly compensated for your labours the view is splendid beyond description. Cities, bays, mountains, & the whole country seems lying at your feet — There is a constant eruption now & then — when I was there the scene was truly sublime, the first notice you would have of it's bursting out, would be an immense roaring in the earth, some just like loud but distant thunder, & presently, tho' although it would burst out of the crater with the greatest violence resembling in some measure the mouth of a common - stone of immense size would be thrown a great height into the air, being clouds hot & of different forms & sizes, made a beautiful appearance as seen from the crater as was safe — on the opposite side where we stood hundreds of fires appeared like the smoke of burning sulphur —

In the vicinity of Naples is the tomb of Virgil which every body goes to see — it is a small rough building from eight to ten feet square & about the same height, with an arched roof, it is overgrown with grape vines & laurels — it stands directly over the entrance of the grotto of pausilippo — this is an excavation of about three quarters of a mile in length entirely through the mountain of the same name, it is constantly lighted, paved with flat stone & is wide enough for carriages to pass about the height varies from twenty to sixty feet — this leads you to the celebrated grotto of the dog, two or three miles from Naples, it possesses the extraordinary quality of destroying animal life in a few moments after the dog, or any living creature is exposed to the atmosphere which does not reach more than 18 inches from the bottom of the cave, I tried the experiment — by holding down my head close to the earth a few moments that it produced a similar effect

to that of drinking a bumper of champaign wine does upon the nose, a torch would become extinguished immediately by holding it near the earth — The old man who had charge of the cave have a very cruel practice of making the experiment upon a dog - The poor devil would fawn round his masters feet & seem to beg to be spared, when he was held down to the obnoxious air, he would with a trembling himself endeavour to escape, until his strength began to fail & his nerves relaxe he would fall down expiring with fear, when his master would throw him out into the air & in a few moments he would revive, froth at the mouth & experience the same distressing convulsions that attacked him at first, until finally he would completely revive —

Respectfully

I remain &c &c

U.S. Ship Washington

Messina Sicily

My dear friend

Our squadron having completed our at Naples, we left the bay about the 20th of August on the first of September entered the straights of Messina over the celebrated whirlpool of Scylla & Charybdis, which in ancient times was considered so dangerous to mariners it proved false & that of the fleet of Ulysses, it must have changed since that time as there is at present none but imaginary dangers — there was an earthquake in 1783 which probably changed its situation — in the afternoon we anchored in Messina road —

Messina or Messene anciently called Zancle it lies in the straits that separates Calabria from Sicily on the shore of the latter in Latitude 38° 11' 5 Long 15° 14' E it is very ancient & is said to be built on the ground where

Messina, now has a fine quay surrounded by strong fortifications, where a large fleet may ride at anchor with perfect safety — The buildings are all of stone any few of them are known of superior architecture — The places of public amusement are very inferior, there is an Opera House, but miserable performers & badly attended

Respectfully your obt svt

U.S. Ship Washington
Algiers bay octobr 14 1815

My dear friend

About the 25th of last month we weighed anchor & stood out of Messina, bound on a passage to the Barbary coast, in the evening and a fine view of Mount Ætna whose lofty head reaching far above the clouds was covered with snow — the perpendicular height of this celebrated mountain measures about 10500 feet a one hundred miles circumference forms its base — here is where the cyclops made the direction of Vulcan in ancient times make their thunder bolts —

On or about the 29th we anchored in the Bay of Tripoly, where we communicated with the Consul & ascertained that all was quiet — in the evening got under weigh & stood to the westward ——

The fortifications of Tripoly are not powerful by any means, Nature has done nothing for them or for the defence of the City, a small squadron well conducted, this guns across of your line could soon drive the Mussulmen from their works

In 1804 our little Navy made an unwonted progress towards establishing its character before the walls of Tripoly — how the nations of Europe communicating his

October the 6th this ship came to anchor in the bay of Tunis 5 leagues to the ruins of ancient Carthage — owing to some misunderstanding between the Tunisians & the United States no officer was permitted to go ashore — so that we were disappointed in not being able to visit Carthage, Tunis lies in latitude 36° 32 N — longitude 10° 34 E — It is defended by the use of fortifications called the Goletta which are capable of being made very strong; but at present are very much out of repair & would make an very weak defence against a well projected assault — from the interior nature has done much for defending this city, high mountainous situations command the whole country & completely surrounding the city, might be made to form one complete chain of defence, but now (altho' numerous as fortresses) lie uninhabitable to ever the name —

We left this bay the 11th & came to in Algiers on the 14th having run down the coast with a pleasant easterly wind. my post thereby after becoming a little settled, was to get ashore if possible, arrange my private affairs & succeed to my own wishes — Algiers is situated in Latitude 36° 49 N longitude 2° 13' East. the city is very compact, surrounded by a strong high wall. the fortifications are strong & well supported than any other of the Barbary powers; our arrival here was shortly after the attack of the combined English & Dutch fleets — they were then engaged in repairing them & removing the rubbish of the embrasures — the exaggerated account of Lord Exmouth respecting that assault induced those who could not ascertain the fact, to believe that the batteries had been demolished with the mole, & that many houses had been destroyed — on the contrary, no batteries were knocked down, & not many houses injured. it is true that many of the Algerines were killed & the slaughter in the mole dreadful — the streets are extremely

extremely remarkable & filthy many of them will not admit a
Christian animal to pass you, & when you see one coming
you must retreat into the first door you meet with —
the houses are not large, many of them communicating with
each other over the streets & form complete subterraneans ranges
they are all built of white stone & altogether form a handsome
appearance in sailing into the roads

On this account the high surrounding country
about Algiers appears to great advantage — many fine
country seats all of pure white with their gardens form
a pretty contrast with the mountains to the eastward
which are constantly covered with snow

Algiers contains about one hundred & fifty thousand
inhabitants as near as they can ascertain them, no
census ever being taken — composed of Turks, Moors & Jews —
very few christians —

The Consular houses are generally large commodious
buildings, but are so surrounded by others superiour in size
& elevation, with narrow dirty streets that prevent the circulation
of the air — renders it altogether extremely unhealthy — most
of the Consuls have country seats, where they retire in those
seasons — the society being very limited, & principally
confined to the Consul families a very small proportion
of which are females — make it dull there almost equal
to perpetual Confinement —

The Dey of Algiers is absolute — deriving his
power from the choice of the janizaries, who elect him generally
from the lowest class of society — their elections are nothing
more, as of their chiefs — no personal merit is necessary to
become eligible to this office — the whim of the moment
governs them — When he becomes obnoxious to them
those around, they are perhaps strangled at his Audience being
in the presence chamber his head, which he quietly resigns,
knowing it is in vain to make resistance — they then wait on the
new Prince ——

U. S. Ship Washington

Gibraltar Bay Novr 9th 1816

My dear friend

With a fine breeze on the 15th of last month we weighed our anchor & stood out of the road of St Ayes, standing to the westward — we have experienced very wet weather for the last ten days - This season of the year the Mediterranean is subject to strong winds & sudden squalls, more dangerous generally than those we meet on the Atlantic —

Arrived to day we learned a party to visit Algeziras a small Spanish town opposite to Gibraltar, this is a place of no note or consideration at present, it was formerly of the reign of Gibraltar of great consequence to the Spanish, having facilitated in a great measure their preparations for the seige the floating batteries, with other warlike preparations were fitted from this place

It contains about 6 or 8 inhabitants, the best idea that I can give you of their true character is, that they are extremely expert with stilletto, & make use of it on most occasions — in the center of the city is a handsome alameda or square, at the head of which, on a small, stands a church —

Respt yours &c &c —

U. S. Ship Washington

Algeziras Bay 26th Nov 1816

My dear friend

We left Gibraltar in good spirits bound to the eastward, & anchored here this day — Algeziras is a town in Granada also Spain — in Latitude 36° 42' N Lon 5° 19' W there is no harbour for men of War — I had not time to visit any part of the city except the Cathedral, which is a stupendous building, perhaps the largest in the country, I ascended to the top where are a number of iron cannon, resembling in small size, the largest now in use —

U. S. Ship Washington

Port Mahon Decr 28th 1815

My dear friend

We took our departure from Malaga the 27 with a small part of the squadron bound to Algiers, having the ... for that place onboard — The last treaty with the Government was made by Comr Decatur, who thought proper to return to Algiers, & show of War, previous to the Squadron leaving the Med — The Frigate was only returned, but in consequence of the Ship having been run ashore by our cruizers on the Spanish coast, was sent by that Government & returned — The Dey then demanded another vessel in her stead which our President did not comply with — the treaty was then sent off to the American Squadron, & by the Comr to the United States — A new one having been purchased & returned to the Comr, who with the Consul was, bounced to Algiers to obtain the ratification of the Dey — accordingly the Spark was despatched with the Consul into port & there wait his return — during which time the Washington manned cruize off the harbour & occasionly show our colors within the waters —

While on this cruize ground we experienced the worst gale that the Washington has yet had to contend with — it struck us with the greatest violence about 7 oclock in the evening & continued until 8 in morning without ceasing — the sea was also very high — Our good Ship Washington have an excellent sentiment of knowing her powers, which on occasions gives us confidence to withstand the gale without much damage —

During the night we witnessed a very curious phenomenon, which is common enough among the sailors, but among us young cruizers are strange things — they are called by the common Sailors, a man on the eve of the

gowns - at the most heavy, they consisted of small glimmering lights seen at the extremes parts of the spars, occasionally vanishing & returning again - they were generally found most perfectly distinct - I have also seen balls resembling fire about the diameter of an eight[illegible] pound shot - they were apparently upon the surface of the water & in one or two instances gently gliding along inside the ship, this is undoubtedly Phosphorescence -

Port Mahon Capital of the Island of Minorca lies in latitude 39° 52' N - longitude 3° 48' E - this harbour is of great consequence to our squadron being considered the first in the Mediterranean, the utmost fury of wind has no effect upon the vessels when they are moored in the upper harbour - it conveniently accommodates fifty sail of the line & perhaps more, the English having already had thirty at the same time -

The inhabitants are principally natives of the Island, it is however garrisoned by Spanish troops, they are much annoyed from the military establishments in the town, consequently are provided with all manner of crime, which make them very obnoxious to the inhabitants - they are named the traitors on this Island but of little note - during the war between Spain & England this place was strongly fortified -

Fort St Philip is an immense work - it was calculated to defend the harbour against almost any force but the English spent much time & ammunition upon it - its greatest strength appears to rest in the subterranean part of it - at the close of the war this famous military Port was by treaty delivered in statu quo - On the 29th the Shark arrived from Algiers with the treaty of peace, The Dey observed that we have the dagger at his throat & he was compelled to sign his articles, and he must say he was the first instance - from them, he soon after became a traitor to his countrymen -

H. S. Ship Washington

Gibraltar Feb.y 9th 1817

My dear friend

Nothing of consequence occurred during our stay at Mahon, after I wrote you, but much has since that time taken place — on the 22d inst we sailed from Mahon, bound to Algiers, where we were arrived on the 25 & after having communication, & ascertaining that our affairs were in a tranquil state, we filled away & proceeded on our cruise — The morning previous to our arrival in this port, Midshipman Watts while attending to his duty in the main top, was precipitated upon deck, & taken senseless up — the Surgeon pronounced his skull, but not his pericranium, no limbs were broken it was thought the injury was internal — he lingered until the 3d & expired much regretted by us all —

Poor Watts had many good traits in his character, generous to a fault, so much so as to reconcile every possession & neglect his own interest — at repartee then was not his equal — his wit was quick & sometimes refined — withal, I feel was found there was sure to be mirth & good humor —

Fortunately his mess mates knew him a short time before he died — he was buried with the honors of war in the manner appropriated to the officers of the garrison — he left a Widowed mother in New Hampshire to lament his untimely end —

Fate seems to have taken her heavy hand upon us; scarcely have we taken poor Watts in the ground, but another was taken from among us Mr. J. accidentally but by a fatal shot — Whilston has fallen a victim to his high sense of honor — I must now proceed to give the circumstances of this

Melancholy affair, still it is more tolerable - not many days since a dispute arose between him & Mid C— about young Shannon, it was supposed by most of the officers that Shannon had taken some unjustifiable advantage of young C— & W—, remarks being more severe & invidious than the other gentlemen; it fell upon him to settle the disputed point, his observations were not within the bounds of manners, they had better been passed C— took them as two men to, & his animadversions, & the following day challenged him to settle it in a more honorable way than by words - On the 7th of January they met on the neutral ground - Mid S— attended by Mid C— Mid W— by Mid. R— as friends -

They fired the first shot without effect - the second S—'s pistol missed fire - his friends then came forward & requested to know if an reconciliation could not take place, - W— observed that he was willing to let it rest - but that he would not apologize - they fired again S—, ball entered the Thorax & passed directly through the lungs, he turned, fell & expired without a struggle his pistol did not go off the last time — Thus fell one of the brightest ornaments of the Navy, the generous ardour of his youthful feelings would not allow the moment sailor under him to be imposed upon - when his honor was at stake, life had no consideration with him — his sunshine of glory fades on it bed at times its brightest splendour — to evince the coolness of his mind upon the ground he loaded his own pistols & only requested his friends to look on & see that every thing was conducted in a proper manner - the morning that this affair took place I had a long conversation with him on the subject he assured me that what he had asserted was his firm belief, & that no power on earth would ever make him recall it or apologize - & that he did not make the remarks hastily

but on the contrary, he was cool & collected, therefore it was his opinion & he should support it at all risks — he adored his Father, had he been a god he could not have idolized him with more devoted affection, his very soul seemed bound up in his image — the sacred name of Father governed him in all his actions — he has often, after as long & tedious watch had endeared, & we had retired below, taken out this kind & affectionate letters & read them to me until he was interrupted by the height of his feelings, he would dwell with so much pleasure & satisfaction upon the presented advice & tender admonitions herein always shown, that it was gratifying to listen to him

Father had been liberal to him in every respect his morality & manners was unequalled among his associates, the brightness of his genius soared above the ordinary talents of those by whom he was surrounded — his modest unassuming manners would never allow him to take advantage of this superiority — he has now gone to the immortal regions above where his departed spirit will rest in peace — The Omnipotent power who made him, knows when to call him hence —

I wrote an account of this melancholy affair to his Father, who had already heard an indirect account of it — some time after I received a letter from him, which plainly showed the distressed situation of himself & family — he enclosed me an epitaph appropriate to the occasion — his brother officers (midshipmen) of the squadron raised a subscription to erect a monument over his grave & I had the satisfaction of giving donation for a plain marble one to be placed to his memory before I left the Mediterranean — (& also Mr. Watts)

with the greatest satisfaction I subscribe

Myself your obt servt &c &c

U. S. Ship Washington

Cadiz March 1st 1817

My dear friend

I have the hours with most satisfaction which again sets all in motion, after remaining four or five weeks in port — oddly spending our time & money — not thing is irreconcilable to a sea life, as the advantage we have over the land gentry in visiting & enjoying the variety of a foreign place — the Washington Ship has been pretty constantly in motion, she anchored in this port two days since. The sole object in coming here is I believe to show the Spaniards an American 74, & to see the world — Cadiz = Latitude 36° = 31' N Longitude 6° = 17' W is the principal seaport in Andalusia de Spain — the harbour is commodious but exposed to the winds; they have a famous Navy yard, dry docks &c but now going fast to ruin, also many large line of battle ships hauled up here falling fast to pieces — it made me feel the weight of time, & the effect of change to see so fine a Navy as this once was sitting into the mud without the prospect of repairs —

The city has a high wall surrounding it & well fortified at every point, this was well illustrated in the war with the French when Soult twice tried the strength of it, but without effect — the houses are generally very high & appear to be well built, the streets of a very respectable width & cleanliness — here is a very handsome public square which is a fine promenade

Our ship was crowded with visitors of all descriptions — the women are handsome, & take great pains in rolling their dark eyes, & showing their pretty feet, which their short cloth displays to great advantage — & working with as much precision as an automaton — & plaiting the fan which seem to constitute the principal graces of a Spanish fair Lady —

B

U S Ship Washington

Port Mahon April 15th 1817

16

My dear friend

Notwithstanding I date my letter from this port we have visited several others since you last heard from me, it has always been customary with the commanders on this station to spend the winter in many quarters – but we have spent ours much more to the satisfaction of us all – after leaving Cadiz we proceeded again for the straits – in passing cape Trafalgar I thought of the great battle which was fought here by Nelson & Collingwood, where the former died in the arms of victory = what an enviable situation = Anchored the 22d Inclusive in Tangier bay =

Tangier is a small town in the Emperor of Morocco dominions – it is in latitude 35°=40' N longitude 5°=49 W in the straits of Gibraltar, it is of little consequence – while we lay, provisions were fresh stock we proceeded through the straits, to Gibraltar where we remained until the 28th – left there for Malaga arrived on the 30th – left Malaga on the 3d of April for Mahon – after a long & unpleasant passage we reached this port ——

All hands are now employed in overhauling the rigging & repairing the Washington, she is hauled along side the Navy yard completly dismasted, & her hold must be

As most of the Squadron have rendezvous in this port, the Commodore Officers have taken this opportunity of conducting a Memorial to the President of the U S & to the Senate – against the commanders of this squadron, while engaged on certain Court Martial business on this station – I enclose you a copy of this memorial that you may judge for yourself of the merits of men when not under the influence of the laws of this country

Memorial

The undersigned officers holding commissions in the Navy of the U. States, beg leave most respectfully to state to the Hon Senate of the U States - That, having entered this service only in life from motive of love of country, respect for its Laws & security, & an ardent wish to become useful, they would willingly encounter danger of any kind, & endure hardships which the good of service or preservation of discipline may make necessary - That trusting with a willingness to risk their lives & sacrifice their comforts, they have hitherto felt a firm reliance on that protection which the well digested laws of their country, were intended by the framers & enactors of them to afford to officers of every grade against the wanton exercise of that which all military establishments place in the hands of the superiors over the subalterns - guarding with constant jealousy their reputation & their rights against all assaults which have not been duly sanctioned by the laws for the guardianship & arbitration of the most respectable of all tribunals = a Court Martial =

They have witnessed with deep regret the proceedings of a late transaction, which has been brought to the decision of a court composed of the oldest officers of the Squadron - of officers who from their rank in service we had hoped would prove as jealous guardians of our rights as their own -

We beg leave respectfully to state the leading circumstances of this case -

Captain John Heath commanding the gunboat No 5 ordered the Brig Porpoise under the command of Oliver H Perry - now so unfortunate as to incur the displeasure of his commander, & the main of the case between the two officers we do not presume to comment but we are sincerely called upon to notice the subsequent events - A Court Martial convened on the

The harbour of Mahon on board the Java on the 27th of dec.r 1815 for the trial of Captain John Heath, on charges & specifications of which the following is a copy —

Charge the 1st — disrespectful, insolent & contemptuous conduct to me his superior officer —

Specification the 1st — that he did on or about the 22.d of july 1815 on board the U. S. Frigate, then steering into the bay of Naples, on being asked by me "why a certain manoeuvre was suffered to appear on deck, in a dirty & filthy & disgraceful" answered in an insolent, disrespectful, & contemptuous manner —

Specification 2.d — that he did late in the evening of the 18th of september 1815, on board the U. S. Ship Java, then at anchor in the harbour of Messina, cause a letter written by himself & couched in language highly improper to be used to his commander, to be left on my table in the cabin of said Ship —

Specification 3.d — that he did when sent for into the cabin, on being asked "why he took such a time to write to write a letter of that kind," answer in a disrespectful, insolent & disrespectful, the aforesaid charge & specification being in violation of the 4th article, & a part of the 13th article, of the rules & regulations for the better government of the Navy of the U. States —

Charge 2.d — neglect of duty & unofficer like conduct —

Specification 1st — that on or about the evening of the 15th of september 1815 on board the U. S. Ship Java when at anchor in the harbour of messina, he the said Capt.n John Heath did on two seamen jumping overboard to swim from the Ship, neglect to come on deck & inform me of this circumstance, allowing as a reason the subterfuge of being sick —

Specification 2.d — that he did when ordered by me at said time & place to come on deck & muster the seamen — execute that duty in a careless & indifferent manner

and when the men in question, declined to report them to me until called upon & directed to do so —

Specification 3d — That he did neglect on the desertion of said Marines from the ship, to take those immediate steps for their that became him as commander of the detachment, to which they belonged & were required by the urgency of the case — This charge & specification being in violation of the 20th article & the 23d article of the rules for the better government of the Navy of the United States —

Charge 3d — disobedience of orders —

Specification = That he did at the time & place referred to in the first charge & third specification through repeatedly ordered to be silent continue to insult & threaten the person of the consequence, & in the same insolent & contemptuous manner, as is therein alleged — thereby violating a part of the 12th article of the rules & regulations for the better government of the Navy of the United States —

U. S. Frigate James
Algiers bay 14th Oct. 1815

= Signed = Oliver H Perry

Of these charges & specifications it will be necessary to obtain only that the offence in which the great stress is laid was committed as the specifications state on the 29th of July 1815, that Captain Heath was neither asserting, suspended or warned that notice would be taken of this offence — On the 15th of September 1815 Captain Heath is again suspended by Capt. Perry to commit an offence; for which for which Capt. Perry suspends him from the exercise of his duty — That in the interval between the commission of the last offence a general court martial commenced in the bay of Naples of which Capt. Perry is president & Capt. Heath a member — that after Capt. Heath had been suspended from his duty two days he addressed a note to Capt. Perry of which the following is a [illegible]

U. S. Ship Java
Messina 18th of Sept. 1815

Sir

On the evening of the 15th inst I was ordered below by you from the quarter deck of this ship with these words as to that effect - I have no further use for your services onboard this Ship - I have remained until this moment to know why I have been thus treated, & being ignorant of the causes request my arrest & charges -

Very respectfully your obt. svt.
"signed" John Heath

The language of this note Capt Perry considered disrespectful & summoned Capt Heath into his cabin. Willingly would your Memorialists draw a veil over the transactions which then & there took place, most willingly would they bury in oblivion a transaction so disgraceful to the character of an American officer but justice to themselves forbids it - it appears by the statement of Capt Heath & the acknowledgement of Capt Perry - that after some conversation had passed Capt Perry, from words, in disposition to hostile violence on the part, gave to Capt Heath a blow & after having committed this outrage upon his person, with much abusive language ordered him to be confined to his room, & on entering pleased one him, in measure which has hitherto been considered as justifiable in extreme case only -

A little reflection convinced Capt Perry of the impropriety of his conduct & alarmed him for its consequences; he accordingly through the medium of a written Post Scriptum to the first lieut of the Java, made an overture to Capt Heath of reconciliation, although few terms an apology, but invited on terms of his own

citation; this Capt Heath. having an due regard for his own reputation, for the commission which he has the honor to hold & for the respectability of his brother officers of the same rank, positively refuses to accept of on his part preferred charges against Capt Perry — a court martial convened & as we are unofficially informed, for the trial of both; but Capt Perry remained in the exercise of the functions of his office, while Capt Heath was in close confinement, — of the proceedings of this court your Memorialists know but little = They know on this they presume, that before the Honorable Secretary of the Navy — but they know that Capt Perry has sailed for the W. Indies in command of the Frigate Java with the sanction of a court martial, & that of the Commander in chief to support his conduct

The undersigned have not an interest for the safety of their persons, but the use of those arms the laws of their country have placed in their hands, & to that paternal strength which nature has blessed them — to those means they must & on them in fact depend, unless the Hon. Senate to whom they look with filial confidence as the guardians of their rights — will by a timely interference save them the disagreeable alternative of relinquishing a profession to which they are enthusiastically attached, or become in every instance the defenders not only of their character but of their persons —

Placed at a distance from their native country & without the immediate influence of its civil laws, your Memorialists rely with confidence on the decision of the high tribunal to which they now appeal, your Memorialists trust it will not engross too much of the valuable time of the Senate, to institute an examination

into the proceedings of this court in their two cases they beg leave to state, that an occurrence at Naples in August last between Capt Edw. Preble Creighton & Midshipman Marston of the Washington —

This decision on which they consider as tending to destroy the connection which every officer ought to feel — while in the performance of the duties of his office — that the strong arm of the law is extended to him equally for his protection during good conduct & for his punishment when he deviates from it's rules —

If your Memorialists have erred in making this appeal, they hope it will be attributed rather to an exuberance than to a deficiency of good feelings — And they trust they will ever be found ready to obey the calls of their country in any contest however unpromising to themselves as individuals —

And your Memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray that this memorial will have its desired effect —

signed by the warrant officers of the Squadron

A copy of the above was sent immediately to the commander in chief of the squadron with all the names — one to the Senate of the U. States, one to the President of the U. S — one to the governor of Virginia —

H. C. Ship Wellington

Port Madison 17th May 1847

My dear friend

Although the long looked for Ellen is in arrive from America, no one can imagine what pleasure I experienced on the occasion - I here have the inexpressible satisfaction of learning that the health of my dear wife is considerably improved - a long time will I fear elapse before I can again enjoy her blessing her prayers & smile &c.

No one but those who have experienced such happiness can have a right conception of the enjoyment which we feel when we for distant from our native shores, to have the most trifling communication from those friends we have left at home gratifying those we hold most dear.

But this is progressing satisfactorily in her affairs in a few days we shall be able to have off to our dear mornings - it is reported that the Comte. intends going from here to France, I shall regret if this is true, as I have become exceedingly anxious to see this delightful country

Yesterday evening the celebrated Cleopatra Barge anchored in this harbour, I am told that she is fitted out merely as a pleasure boat - she is not a handsome vessel externally, but her cabin is the most completely furnished room I ever have seen - she is owned by the Governmentship - her table is free of access at all hours & to all who wish, say their devotions to Bacchus - & you may be well assured in a country like this, where there are such an immense number who seldom meet with good cheer that they have numerous visitors, particularly from among the gentry of the black robe, where more millions & good living is carried on, than it would be possible to credit, if we did not know that the Priests of these Catholic countries were a part to the riches = luxuries

Respt. My dear Sir Your Obt Servt

U. S. Ship Washington
Port Mahon May 1817

My dear friend

During our sojourn last september in the city of Messina, a circumstance took place which was likely to involve some of the officers of the squadron in difficulty & finally, a false report having been made by the author of the affair to his government, it became a serious investigation, & the officers were called upon by the Comdr. to make a correct statement to him to be sent to America — it originated in a Capt Bell having furnished a sailor belonging to the squadron — I will enclose you an official account from the officers onboard —

Consulate of the United States
at Port Mahon in the Island
of Minorca

On the 17 day of may were personally appeared Lieut. & Act. Lieutenants J— C— & W— of the U. S. Navy, who being duly sworn, solemnly depose & declare, that while at Messina on or about the 18th day of september 1816, they entered a billiard room of a public Hotel in said city — & there saw Capt. Bell of the British Schooner Ann — that Lieut. J— immediately pointed out Capt Bell as the person who had a few days before flogged an American seaman belonging to the U. S. Frigate Java — when Mr. J— advanced towards him & civilly enquired whether he was the gentleman who had beaten the American Sailor — that Capt. Bell instantly arose & drawing a brace of pistols, desired Mr. J— to stand off, adding that he had been advised to prepare himself against the American officers, & that he should blow any man through that molested him — to which Mr. J— coolly observed that American officers were not so easily terrified & that he had rather lay aside his pistols —

& that none but a rascal & a coward would act in such a manner without provocation - Capt Bell replied he was neither a rascal or a coward but that he was a British officer & would have satisfaction for the insult - that Mr. S - declared himself ready to fight him in any way he pleased - & the parties immediately repaired to an adjoining room for the purpose - that then Capt Bell objected to an immediate settlement because his particular friends were not present - & also on account of Mr. S - rank - that Lieut A - then observed that the objection on rank should not avail him, as he was ready to personate Mr. S - to which Capt Bell also objected on account of his being a man of family - that he had reported the affair to the Governor of Messina - that it was now in the hands of the civil authority - consequently he had nothing further to do with it - that Lieut A, Mr. S - & M then repaired to an adjoining room considering the affair as ended, when shortly after hearing a noise they returned & found Capt Bell scuffling with Mr. C - that Mr. S - interfered to separate them - & in consequence of a blow received from Capt Bell, struck him & some blows passed between them - Mr. C gives the cause of his quarrel with Capt Bell - that he had received a gross personal insult from him - that after the parties were separated Capt [illegible], insisted upon a duel the next morning, which was immediately acceded to - & Lieut A - promised that any one of the gentlemen should be present at any time & place that should be named -

That Lieut A on the following morning called on Capt Bell & stated that Mr. S - was ready for the meeting, but that if he preferred either of the other gentlemen, he, Lieut A, Mr. M - or Mr. C - were ready to give him any satisfaction he required, to which Capt Bell replied that he should not accept of any application to the civil authority, & this the affair ended -

In witness whereof the deponents have hereunto signed their names

L.S

Signed & sworn before me G. Theodore Parker -

U. S. Ship Washington

Marseilles June 11th 1844

My dear friend

We all agreed when the signal was displayed to unmoor ship, so heartily did every one wish to leave, that our passage to this place was 7 days, we are accompanied by the whole Squadron, which are now in the most perfect order & make a very respectable appearance. —

Marseilles, was anciently called Massilia, which derived its name it was founded by the Phocaeans, 539 years before christ, & was even in former times a place of great strength, not only in War, but in commerce & in literature — not having yet been ashore I can give you no description of its internal beauties, the appearance from our ship is very favourable the country surrounding the city is now in its highest state of cultivation — every thing, both luxuriant, gardens & fruit trees in full bloom, & in fact the whole face of nature has one smiling aspect — I only fear that I shall not get ashore to enjoy all these fine things — there appears to be some objection to giving us Pratique immediately in consequence of having our Consul from Algiers, where the pestilence still rages — the Health officers are on board, & the Capt. is ashore, which has already caused our letters —

My anxiety to visit France has been very great & could make almost any sacrifice to have my inclination gratified — the Language is almost universally spoken & I think it very necessary that every young officer should be acquainted with it

I am sorry to say that our cruise in this place has not active with that energy & alacrity which is necessary to support the dignity of our American officer — Independence in a certain degree becomes a republican spirit, & he who represents a republican Government ought to have a good share —

U. S. Ship Washington

Leghorn roads July 8th 1817

My dear friend

My prognostications have in this instance proved too true - the third day after the squadron anchored in Marseilles, there came on a tremendous gale of wind - one of the frigates dragged her anchors, another parted her cable - which induced the Comr the moment the wind came to get under weigh - "I swore that if ever he came back he should it would be to burn Leghorn with them" our disappointment was very great in being obliged to leave France without having communication with the shore - there was no alternative -

Leghorn is the principal sea port in Tuscany & one of the greatest commercial places in Italy - it lies in Latitude 43° 29' N Longitude 10° 22' E - it has a fine mole for merchant vessels - & a smaller one for the gallies - Men of war of the first class are moored in the roads which is very much exposed - Leghorn is a well fortified place, having a high wall with a deep ditch to protect it - Nature however has done nothing for it, as it is accessible from all quarters, & could not withstand an assault from heavy artillery - There are no curiosities & very few amusements here, every body is engaged in some commercial pursuits & seem interested in that alone - travellers proceed either to Pisa or Florence for pleasure or information - not far from the walls of the city has been erected an English burying ground, which deserves notice & does much credit to those who first established, there is interred the body of Smollet who died in Leghorn -

I intend visiting Possibly Florence & Pisa if time will

Respt. yours &c &c

U. S. Ship Washington

Leghorn Roads july 5th 1817

My dear friend

Yesterday we celebrated the anniversary of the Independence of our Country in appropriate style, at Meridian fired a National salute - as is usual on such occasion our ship was dressed in the colors of all nations, & the day was spent in thanksgivings to Him who through our Forefathers gave us Freedom

Florence july 7th 1817

I left Leghorn last night at 8 oclock, & rode all night, at 9 this morning found myself in this city, the road is extremely fine I came in the diligence, which is not so curious as the accommodation stages in America - I took up my quarters at the Hotel de York with some other officers, we found here good accommodations on reasonable terms

This city has been famous for many ages, for supporting the fine arts, it is said that the gallery here contains the finest collection in Europe - The magnanimous Napoleon in transporting some of the Statues & paintings mutilated them considerably - This is the first place we visited after our arrival - it is an immense building, several days should be passed in the different apartments, to view it in a proper manner I spent two mornings here with infinite satisfaction, the variety is so great that it is almost impossible for me to particularize, I will however mention two or three -

The Venus de Medicis is universally acknowledged to be the most perfect model of the human art, it is supposed to be from the chisel of Praxitiles who lived about 300 years before christ - he was a Grecian sculptor & many excellent pieces came from his hands - I wish that it was in my power to give you a description of this beautiful piece of nature, it is quite naked & the proportion of the limbs are so perfect that you almost fancy that it is animated

The most fine which I most admired was a painting representing Potiphar's wife & Joseph, this was indeed a subject, like it of could scarcely seem to express more feeling than appears in the countenance of the figures, nature was here displayed in all her beauties —— in the the range of apartments was one appropriated entirely to Portraits of ancient celebrated artists executed by themselves —

In the afternoon we visited a famous engraver, who we found extremely polite & shewed us some very superior works his name is Morgan —

From this we were taken to the Academy of "Fine Arts" which is under the direction of Benvenuti a distinguished Artist, he had just finished a piece, which was then exhibited in the Palace of Cassini, it is said to be his master piece — In representation of Pyrrus avenging the death of his father Achilles, Pyrrus has slain Priam by the hair, he had taken refuge in the Church & was then at the Altar where he is sacrificed to his fury, Hecuba Andromache, & three other females with their infants are the figures which make up the group & are witnesses of the murder — The fine & revengful expression of the features of Pyrrus are most strongly delineated — while the horror & dismay exhibited in the rest of the group are wonderfully well drawn —

July 8th

This morning was passed in examining the Cathedral which stands nearly in the center of the city, it is built of marble after the Mosaic style — it is an immense structure from the top we had a most delightful prospect of the whole city & surrounding country — near this & in the same square is a Chapel of beautiful Architecture, the doors are of bronze, most elegantly wrought in basso-relief — the windows of variegated colors, from the Egyptians the art of which is supposed to be lost — Our next visit was to the church of St. Lorenzo — the Chapel of which

is said to be the richest in all Italy – That part which contained is of the most beautiful porphyr, from Egypt, Elba & Tuscany most perfectly polished, it is not yet finished, has already been two hundred years building, & cost immense sums – Here is deposited the ashes of the Princes of the Medici family in rich sarcophagi ornamented with their coat of arms, on the top the crown of each Prince most superbly studded with precious stones –

Near this church is an Ancient Manuscript Library, collected ofte the Medici family, it contains 70 000 volumes. Here was shown us an original manuscript of Virgil –

Palace Pitti

The grand Duke's palace was the most considerable, see was here shown a very great collection of paintings from the first masters – in a small private apartment is the Venus de Canova, from the great modern sculptor at Rome, it is said by many to be equal to the Venus de Medicis – it has one advantage, the light strikes with which it is partly covered, not enough to hide any of its beautiful proportions, but for modesty's sake it is well, she seems almost conscious of her own situation, & holds the drapery as it were to cover her charms from mortal eyes –

Old Palace, where are the portraits of the whole family of the Medicis = adjoining is another ancient Library

Mineralogy where all kinds of precious stones are wrought – we here shown some fine specimens of them

Palace of Riccardi when the Emperor Charles the 5th was burnt – Here was another Library & paintings

July 10

Cabinet of Physic & Natural history –

Here is the human body most perfectly represented in wax in every variety of form of both sexes – all kinds of beasts, birds, fishes, & a great collection of precious stones, possibly as fine as any Egyptian Mummy – & a thousand other curiosities –

By particular request of the gentleman who have charge of the Galleries, we paid them another visit, he was desirous of showing us a small room containing nothing but richest minerals, stones, diamonds, & precious stones of every description, which he has been ages collecting at an immense expense – it would seem incredible were I to mention what they cost – a small circle not the size of glass salt cellar of onix was prized at 13 000 crowns ——

In the evening we rode out to the Porcelain Manufactory where they make a fine imitation of china ware, it was amusing to see the different hands it passes through & in quick succession; each separate figure is made with the pencil, each man forming a single one & passes it to his neighbour who makes another, & so on until the whole is finished

We returned from the exercise by a distant Promenade called the Cursine – it is a beautiful extensive walk or ride near two miles in length, lined on both sides with lofty elms, there are three different avenues any broad & straight in good condition – here all the nobility & gentry ride in the evening – & frequently the young Duke himself –

The latter part of this evening we spent at the Opera where we saw the Grand duke & all his family attended by Maria Louisa, ex Empress of France, as far as I could judge from her present appearance she is a fine portly looking woman, some of the prints which I have seen of her are very correct, she was dressed very plain, the Dukes family were also in the plainest costume – being in drab coats & no vests – The observation of Sterne I think, upon the quakers – if the world had but more of them – "what a drab coloured creation it would be now"

The Opera house is the neatest I have seen all the boxes are lined with silk & well accommodated with chairs – Venus & Adonis which was performed well by a celebrated dancer from Paris, Dupont with his wife —

Florence july 11th

. At half past 4 o'clock this morning we left this city for Leghorn after we had settled our bills & taken leave of our travelling valet or interpreter who have attended us constantly during the few days we remained here, rode behind our carriage as one of servants, once such little officers - we found him highly useful & honest - The day was extremely fine, the clear, & the sun rose & spread its charming rays over the rich extensive plains of the Arno -, as we rode on the light Marble Bridge, with one Arch which is an ornament for the great perfection of its Architecture, I took a last farewell of this charming city - Our road led along the Arno, whose banks are lined with town & villages the whole distance, rich cultivated gardens, orangeries &c &

The morn, every thing was favourable, our road was a little elevated, which increased the prospect & gave us a fine view of the wide extended plains of the Arno -

Tuscany is unquestionably the richest country in Italy - it has many advantages, fine pasturing fine fields & fine grain, consequently the finest stock, & never we superior beef in America than what we get here - In fact & every day we see something that reminds us of our own Country - the inhabitants, the cattle, outwardly does like ours - the forests, cultivated fields, all remind us of in remembrance of our native America - We passed through Pisa in the afternoon, & only remained there long enough to take a little refreshments - this is a very interesting place & I shall in a future letter say more on this subject -

We reached Leghorn in the evening my mind fatigued but highly gratified with the days excursion - I hope my dear Sir you will not find me too tedious - I have not the advantages of a comfortable room by myself to write in - yours truly -

U. S. Ship Washington

Civita Vecchia July 25th 1817

My dear friend

The commodore having left the squadron at Leghorn & gone to Florence, from which place he contemplates going to Rome by land, & again joining the Washington at this port, when the whole squadron will immediately be ordered, Civita Vecchia lies in latitude 42° 5' N. long. 11° 48' E about 50 miles from Rome, it is an open roadstead & rocky bottom, consequently no place for a man of war — we had not been here but two days, before we were joined again by the Conn in the Erie which vessel had been left at Leghorn — he having attended his excellence Genl in visiting Rome — we[illegible] anchor immediately a stones cast from the land — At 6 in the morning we could distinctly see the famous City of Rome from the top; masts the mouth of the Tiber before we came down — the Dome of St. Peters was visible for some time — from most[illegible] to see within two hours ride of the ancient mistress of the World, & not have it in our power to tread upon her ground —

U. S. Ship Washington

Naples July 27th 1817

My dear friend

Again you see I date my letter from the Capital of the two Sicilies, we anchored in the bay last evening — since we were here last year they have re-built the great Theatre San Carlos, which was destroyed by fire about two years since — it is the largest & most superb building of the kind in Europe — the interior is most finished in the most splendid style, containing six tier of boxes the pillars supporting each of different orders of Architecture all most costly guilt — the ceiling is[illegible]

An elegant chandelier is one in the kings box which is in front of the stage, the top is a canopy, the whole trimmed with damask curtins — in front of each box is a small chandelier holding five lights — when the whole is illuminated the effect of the lights upon the gold work is truly dazzling — The scenery, dresses, & performance altogether is not to be surpassed in this line of acting.

The orchestra contains about sixty musicians & as the Italians characteristically fiddlers you know of course, in this respect they are not to be outdone — the goodness of their music speaks for the profession —

Pompeii

In one of my letters in july 1845, I gave you some description of that celebrated ruin — I gave it from notes which I took, but lost a part of them; I only visited Herculaneum at that time, when we returned to naples I went to Pompeii and omitted mentioning, the Barracks, adjoining which are the Theatre, & the Temple of Isiss, all in good preservation, & the streets leading to them — we now pursued our course over a great many buildings which had fallen down & formed one complete heap — until we entered an extensive vineyard, which no doubt covers a part of the city; on the opposite side is the Amphitheatre an immense building, capable of holding 80,000 people, it is said to be half of a mile in circumference, thirty seven rows of seats I counted distinctly it was here where the gladiators fought with the wild beasts — in returning through the vineyard we entered another portion of the city — where we entered a wine vault with the vases in their original places, having been removed they were perfectly sound & in good order

I observed in this part of the city the houses were not generally more than two stories high on the sides

of the earth & in some places much lyr – in one of the buildings which I entered our guide led us into a small room entirely closed, in the centre of which was the most perfect piece of Mosaic work I ever saw, not the least impairred, it could never have been in a better state than at this moment, in another place I found an Amber belonging probably to a display of Power this is a certain proof that there must have been an eruption previous to that which Pliny gives an account of – I broke a piece from it, & we could discern no difference, The eruption which destroyed Herculaneum & Pompeii is said to be the first that ever took place from Vesuvius ——

Catacombs – are a very extensive subterranean work consisting of long dark passages, rooms, & vaults the extent of which are not known, but I believe they are here explored for miles – our guide had many a legendary tale at his tongues end, about them, they were not doubt originally intended for keeping the dead but now this custom seems to have been abolished, when I visited them the guide procured a flambeau lighted & led the way & we traversed this gloomy abode of the dead, until we almost imagined ourselves in reality among old Pluto & his associates – in some of the rooms the bones would be piled up like cords of wood – in others were perfect there would be a recess in the wall, & either a sarcophagus formed or placed there, with the bones in them disposed in the same situation that the corps was originally placed – on some of the walls were Inscriptions & grotesque figures – There did not appear any regularity in the size, form, or situation of any of the passages or the rooms, some were above, some below the passages – we found some so far that we began to apprehend that the guide might possibly have himself, forgotten the leading passages, but I felt satisfied with my self that was not when I got out into the fresh air ——

Kings Garden at Naples.

This is one of the most fine out Door places in Italy, it is more like a promenade than a garden, it is a place of great resort on sunday evening for all clases of people, the whole extent is nearly one mile, twice with trees on both sides which affords an agreable shade, light marble seats are placed at short distances here are a number of statues from the most celebrated Artists in Italy — that which is most conspicuous stands in the center of the garden, surrounded by a fountain — It represents the story of Dirce who was tied to the tail of a wild Bull, who dragged her over precipices & exposed her to the most cruel pains until the gods, pitying her fate, changed her into a fountain this piece of Sculpture is said to be deserving of great merit

The Faun is another celebrated piece exhibited in this garden — it is represented as having the legs of goats, the Greeks called them Satyrs —

Another fine statue is Hercules attacking the Nemaean Lion, which was the first labour imposed upon that Hero by Eurystheus who agreable to a disposition of Jupiter had a right to exercise over Hercules being the elder —

The young Apollo is also a fine piece of workmanship, many more the subject of which I do not recollect — There is a fashion bathing establishment belonging to this garden — in fact it possesses all that a life of luxury in Naples makes requisite —

Baiae is one of the most ancient part of Italy, There are many interesting objects which is highly worthy of notice, it is one of most pleasent excursions that a traveller can make from Naples, you pass things a delightful part of the country, until you arrive at a small town called Pozzolia, where you take a boat & proceed across the bay a distance of abt — Ten miles I shall mention the principle places only —

Baiae forms a beautiful bay, there was one a city of that name formed by Baius, one of the companions of Ulysses = The Roman Emperors & Senators had country seats & Palaces here - its ancient grandeur is however destroyed by the Earthquakes which has so often convulsed Italy, there are now shown here the ruins of the Palace of Julius Caesar the Temple of Minerva, Venus & some others which I do not recollect, one of these possesses a very extraordinary quality of echoeing the most trifling whisper from one side to the other -

Next both we in some expectation, we went into one of them which is about thirty yards from the surface of the earth, on a descent of nearly thirty degrees or more, the vapours are so powerful that at your entrance you must hold your head close to the ground, to prevent suffocation, you must prepare yourself by stripping off your clothes, to prevent them from being wet through with perspiration, we saw here the bottom completely covered. Here is a spring sufficiently hot to boil eggs, which experiment we tried - at the entrance are the remains of the rooms to dress & undress & take refreshments -

We proceeded from here to Sybils grotto, on the borders of the lake Avernus, this grotto runs through a hill - in about the centre of which is the cloths & apartments of the Sybil, it appears to have been defended & considerably sunken, the lake upon which it stands was anciently consecrated the entrance of Hell, the water are stagnant, putrid, & very offensive -

Jupiter Serapis = this is at Puzzuoli the floor, & some of the pillars are yet standing, it is supposed to be one of the most ancient churches in Italy, the pillars remaining are nearly fifty feet long & nine feet diameter one whole piece of Marble beautifully veined yellow, the ring where the victim was made fast is not the least nearly some parts of the altar are still remaining -

In the bay are some of the pillars & some whole arches of an bridge which was built by Caligula ——

We have a very pleasant excursion to Portici about
four miles from Naples, at the foot of Mount Vesuvius -
it is a modern city, & stands directly over the ancient
city of Herculaneum - an entrance to the ruins of this
ill fated city is not far from the main street, Portici
is only famous for having a Palace & garden, belonging to
the King of Naples - this Palace was a favourite retreat
of Murat, & greatly improved by him, we were treated
with much politeness by the Chamberlain, who has charge
of the whole establishment, his venerable appearance gave
us a respectable opinion of his character, when we first
met, & before we took leave of him every pleasing impression was relieved - he took us through each & every
apartment explaining every thing as we passed - The roof
of Every Room, remains the same without the least alteration
whatever also the furniture of the room, as when the Royal
it - there is the greatest magnificence displayed in this
Palace perhaps in Italy

Naples was anciently called Parthenope,
this supposed to contain from three hundred & fifty to four
hundred Thousand souls - about forty Thousand of these
constitute what is called Lazzaroni, or beggars, who live upon
the charity of strangers, & the way they get all victuals provided
from the convents - when the officers land from the ships there
is certain to be from twenty to fifty of these poor wretches
upon the wharf waiting to ask charity - if you enter a
store to make a purchase, the door will immediately
be invaded by them, some with one, two, & three children
- They seem by of the native inhabitants
which excited my curiosity, when they were questioned on
the subject they say that they are poor unfortunate -
& there is no provision made for them by the government
their only shelter, even against the inclemency of the
weather is the canopy of Heaven -

When Murat was on the throne of Naples, he employed a great number of these beggars cleaning the rubbish from the ruins of Pompeii, & also in improvements in the city, so that the number soon became diminished & the streets of Naples never has been so clear of these dishonorable characters as at that time - such was there many more ones equally mischievous were removed this monarch extremely popular among the citizens - notwithstanding he was a usurper - There is little doubt that if he had landed at Naples instead of Calabria, he would have given the old King some trouble, & perhaps he would again been obliged to abandon his throne -

It is astonishing to see the pride & pomp & even magnificence, exhibited by the nobility, merely to support the empty title of nobleman - notwithstanding their extreme poverty is so well known, they will display the most superb equipages crowded with living servants covered with lace, all this extravagance is to gratify the idle vanity of a light headed nobleman -

How much more true dignity is there in the plain & simple manners of a republican, whose ideas of greatness rests in the triumphs of Liberty, & whose proud souls aspire to higher dignities than springs from empty title -

U S Ship Washington

Syracuse august 30th 1817

54

My dear friend

Early on the morning of the 20 inst we unmoored ship & stood out of the bay of Naples, our passage was very pleasant, until we arrived near Stromboli one of the Lipari Islands where we experienced a fresh blow — on the 28th we arrived at Messina where we remained two days, & proceeded to this place —

I hope I shall not fatigue you with my antiquarian description, but you already know that the whole vicinity of Naples is replete with ancient historical events, & I am so prone of traversing this ground, that I cannot resist the temptation I feel in transcribing some of those gratifications to my friend, when on some celebrated spot, & then as the want of information in these affairs, which is necessary for every traveller — here I am again on more antiquarian ground than ever —

Syracusae was in former times one of the most splendid cities in this quarter of the globe — it was founded about 700 years before the christian era, by a Corinthian — it was said to be 22½ english miles in circumference — there are now only a few ruins left of its ancient greatness — The modern city occupies the Island of Ortygia one of the ancient districts, it is walled & may be a strong garrison, it is now the centre of corruption & filth, the whole mass in the lowest state of poverty, Latitude 37° 5' N Longitude 15° 30' E — The harbour is very good & is the only recommendation it has —

The rich soil & fertility of Sicily is in the neighbourhood of this city fully demonstrated, grain seems to be its chief employment — but the miserable & inefficient government of Naples discourages the

Former & deprives him of those priviledges, which in another he would enjoy, & which his labours so richly merit — the greatest proportion of his profits goes to the maintainance of the beggarly Priests —

Dionysius' Ear is the principal room now to be seen here, it is a monstrous cave, but little in the form of a human ear as has been represented — the peculiar qualities that it now possess is the reverberation of sound, when a pistol is fired, or any exclamation taken place within its mouth — & it is said to concentrate at a small cavity near the top over which the Tyrant had his private room, where the whisper was communicated, & where the Tyrant stationed himself to overhear the conversation of the prisoners whom his suspicions have confined within these apartments —

The Amphitheatre is very distinctly seen lying out out of a solid rock, many rows of seats are quite perfect The Catacombs are shown here as antiquities, they are similar to those of Naples already described —

Kept your 4th sent.

Smyrna, N. S. Ship Washington.
Sept.r 8th 1819

My dear friend

We sailed from Syracuse the 4th inst. & passed Malta the following day, arrived in this port to day, came to anchor about 7 miles from the town, fired a salute, which was answered from the batteries — Smyrna 38° 54' N Long 13° 11' E — It is probably as populous, if not either of the other Barbary powers — The houses are small & contemptible the streets narrow & dirty resembling more the Turkish towns. The city is surrounded by a wall — Few ships, merchants have to attend our station we observe a few

to ride upon the deserts of Zahara. encamped twelve miles & started off at full speed - on our way we passed a very pleasant grove of Palm, Pomegranate, & olive trees. - at length this wonderful ocean of sand ceased molding upon mind - we continued three or four miles into the desert & took an elevated situation where the prospect became clear & distinct - it was truly a novel scene, not a tree, shrub, or vine, not even the smallest spear of grass was to be seen to the south'w & west'd, one wide expanse of sand & sky, as far as the eye could extend - the sand had gathered itself along in many places resembling banks of snow - in other places light currents of wind would seem to agitate upon its surface like a smooth sea, & create little waves like the gentle ripling of water — often satisfying our curiosity how we returned our steps back towards the city by another route - often reaching the grave we fell in with a party of Arabs who were quietly eating some solum tree. I could not help observing that the curiosity on their part was equally as great as ours, & to satisfy both, we dismounted & went among them - one of the females was particularly interesting her features were extremely regular, fine eyes, & set mouth around which played an agreeable smile & disclosed to view a row of ivory that would be envied by many of our fair damsels, her hair was long, black, & straight, not unlike our south American Indians, it was ornamented with small pieces of bone of different shapes - her ears was loaded with rings entirely around the rim — wrists & ankles were garnished with broad rims — her form was tattooed in different parts which gave her with a grotesque appearance —

We returned into Tripoli and refreshed ourselves upon melons which grow here in abundance & of enormous size. This was the only refreshment we could procure —

Sept 9th

U. S. Ship Washington
Tunis Sept 18 1817

My dear friend

we have a delightful passage from Tripoly the wind being aft the beam the whole distance, we came to in this bay last evening, this is the second time that this ship has been here, & I have not yet been the ruins of Carthage, no officer is permitted to leave the Squadron in consequence of some difficulty existing between the Bey & the American consul - every thing is prepared in case he does not come to terms, to make an attack upon the Goletta, it is presumed however much to our regret that we shall not have an opportunity this time of trimming some of these Barbarian whiskers - we have had a tremendous squall, parted our cables twice, & one of the frigates dragged her Anchors - the bay is so much exposed that vessels are sometimes in a dangerous situation, we have experienced some gales of the like on shore -

An accommodation I believe has taken place between the Com.r & his Highness the Bey, which will prevent some of young bloods from carving the Turks to pieces -

I remain with great consideration
& respect your Ob.t Ser.t

U. S. Ship Washington
Gibraltar oct 9th 1817

My dear friend

You see we have again moored the Washington in this bay, we arrived here on the 3.d inst. after a very unpleasant passage from Tunis - the prospects at length became so unfavorable that we were obliged to go upon allowance - which is not a very pleasant or common thing in this sea, on our way down we looked in to Algiers, & learnt that the plague raged there still -

we have anticipated the pleasure of meeting the Franklin here on arrival, but were disappointed —

While off Algiers we spoke a vessel coming out of that port, the captain informed us that a few days previous to his sailing the gonizaries had proceeded to the Palace of the Dey in a mob, & demanded his head — no resistance was made he gave himself up a sacrifice the three Barbarians —

There seems to have been of late some quarrel between the Great Mogul & his prime minister, which has termination finally in a mutiny hoisted, & consequently separation — "two Suns cannot move in the same hemisphere" —

Our Capt is about to return to America in the constellation — I have a conversation with him a few days since, he assured me that on his arrival at Washington no exertions on my part should be wanting to forward my views at the Department, he also said that the Com. felt a disposition to advance me — At the same time advised me by all means to remain in the Mediterranean with the Com. all this was however a fatal delusion; as soon as the Constellation have sailed, the Com. gave an act of appointment to an officer belonging to the Frigate U. S. in preference to any of his own officers who were older in service —

When this took place, I remonstrated in severe terms, & desired that I might be permitted to return home where I could get justice done me — This produced what I desired, an interview, which finally terminated in my favour, in as much as he promised to promote before we left the Mediterranean — this was quite as much as I could expect, therefore was satisfied —

My particular friend the Capt arrived at N— in safety, but forgot all the sacred promises which he had voluntarily made me — he also reached Providence where he still remains in Ordinary —

"Beatties is an honourable man"

Enclosed is the copy of a letter from a friend of mine, to a member of Congress on the subject of Promotion, as it evinces great warmth of friendship I enclose it you

U S Ship Washington

Gibraltar bay oct. 28th 1847

Dear Sir

Having received intelligence of your recent appointment as delegate for the house of Congress, permit me Sir, after tendering you my most fervent wishes for the full consummation of your hopes & promotion in this your secondary advancement in the public service & first of political disquisition - in the execution of which, by your characteristic department I cannot but assure you that confidence in your constituents, to contract an obligation, which as it intimately relates to a friend of mine will receive the inexpressible thanks of us both - The individual reference to is a midshipman of this Ship - in consequence of the many disadvantages accruing from from his absence, is compelled through this as the only channel to Promotion to exhibit his claims to the Navy Department, to that support which he has done through the medium of the Hon.ble Messrs Barnie & Marvin now in congress - An interest in the welfare of Mr. Whipple, as an equal conviction of his merits has influenced me in thus addressing you, from a belief of its meeting your patronage, which together with the other gentlemen concerned, but prove instrumental at least in obtaining justice from a source that acts from the most unparalleled injustice than motives of justice & equity - That this intimation may not excite surprise or suspicion, be pleased to revert to the proceedings of the last session, as also those (succeeding the examination) subsequent to that period & you will see the facts fully exemplified, & not a little to the detriment of many meritorious officers -

Mr. Whipple is for examination in his profession having been in constant active service - justly claims the prerogatives of a Lieutenant, his capacity to act & merits for promotion has

been acknowledged by your Secretary to the Department?

Still any confirmation from you will be protective of equal advantage, & not a little enhance the interest of one of whom I trust at a future period you may not be unwilling to subscribe in your catalogue of friends —

With much esteem I am sir

truly your Obt. Servt. &c &c

P.S. should you be pleased to devote your attention to the above request, it may be advisable to confer with Capt Creighton of this ship, who in all probability will be in Washington by the commencement of the session —

Another letter, from Lieut Shubrick to the Secretary of the Navy, was sent to Washington, provided as useful as the one above, not being personally on the spot, letters were of no avail, as one cruise to Washington were more useful if you wished to gain any point, than years service at sea, or all the letters in the world — influence is the best recommendation a man can have at head quarters, with a good share of this, he would succeed, when modest merit would be stared out of countenance —

U S Ship Washington

Gibraltar Nov.r 18th 1817

Sir

Midshipman Whittlesey has served with me in the Frigate Constitution & in this Ship nearly three years, his conduct has been that of a diligent & correct Officer, & it gives me pleasure to say that in my opinion he is worthy of the attention of the Navy Department —

I have the honor to be

Hon.ble

Sec.y of the Navy

very respectfully your Ob.t Servt.

Isaac Hull

U. S. Ship Washington

Winter quarters

Syracuse sept 4th 1813

My dear friend

Abandoning all hopes of being relieved by the Franklin this winter, we finally manoeuvred ship at Gibraltar & proceeded to this place, came to a short time at Malaga, where we took a strong westerly wind, & in three days, the Island of Sicily was in sight in extraordinary run — we were thus favoured until christmas day, we had reached the Lipari Islands — Anciently called Eolian after the god of the winds — we found them justly named, for when we were in the midst of them, the angry god attacked us with the most tremendous gale that we had yet experienced & threatened us with the greatest danger, in attempting to shorten sail, three of our men were thrown from the yards by its violence, it continued for eight & forty hours without much intermission, we were driven nearly upon the shore of Sicily, although it veered a little & gave us an opportunity to lay our course the straits of Messina, when we found it ahead, however it did not prevent us from beating up to Syracuse — here again it veered ahead. & notwithstanding the manoeuvres of the pursuer the Com.r beat the ship into the harbour — which however is unhandsome for a ship of this size — we have to remain in this unchristian like port until the arrival of the Franklin — I have a fine pleasant excursion in the country with a small party a few days since, we took our guns & provisions up a small river, & were equally delighted with the country as with our sport, having taken some wild fowl & birds — in our return we entered a cottage & procured some red wine & boiled eggs, a meal heartily made — the cottages are extremely low, there was no furniture except a bench & stool, no floor to the dwelling, which consisted of one room for the whole family, consisting of several children, very dirty cases, [illegible] ——

U.S. Ship Washington

Syracuse Feb. 8th 1815

My dear Friend

To our very great satisfaction & relief the Franklin has at length arrived, she came to anchor in this port on the 29 ult., she is a beautiful ship but not so strong I think as the Washington,

About the 2d the ceremony of transferring the Squadron from the old commander to the new one took place - at 12 o'clock last to quarters when Com. Stewart came over the side at their respective divisions, after he left the Ship manned the yards & fired a salute of 17 guns which was returned by the Franklin & Ex Stolt, when the first gun was fired ashore the Washington the blue broad pendant was hauled down & the red hoisted -

The whole Squadron is now preparing for an departure to Messina, our new Commander not admiring this place, when the report reached the shore that we men leaving off, the inhabitants became so exasperated that they threatened the life of the Consul whom they supposed to be the instigator of this movement, his establishment being at that place - it is not any particular regard for the Americans that stimulates them to revenge, but the money which they distribute ashore among them - they make more dependance upon this, than the proceeds of their whole years industry - it is no insignificant thing for the Squadron to have an American squadron winter in this port - when we take into consideration the quantity of fresh provision of any kind & stores in store which are consumed by them daily - Sailors shoe makers, & tailors keepers have an interest in this - Perhaps it is not an extraordinary that they should feel a little indignation towards the board bring -

U. S. Ship Washington

Messina Feb. 17th 1818

My dear friend

It appears by the manoeuvring of the commander in chief, that he is determined to disappoint us, & make use of the authority government have invested him with, & detain the squadron on this station, when we had anticipated by this time to have run one third of the distance to Annapolis - I have given up all hopes of realizing the promise which the Comr made me in Gibraltar, why he should delay it until he had transferred the command to another officer I cannot conceive -

The whole squadron anchored in this place yesterday - the weather now is most delightful, & has remained so for many weeks - while in Syracuse, we occasionly received cold & lowering blasts from Mount Aetna the top of which is covered with snow the principal part of the year -

The vegetables which we receive from the shore are as good as we have them in the summer season - every kind of cultivation seems to flourish notwithstanding it is so late excepting the grapes, which are not in season -

It is reported that we sail soon whether for Annapolis or some other place is uncertain - the only place we find to amuse ourselves here is the Casino where all the gentility of Messina meet twice each week & commence promenading, either in gondolas or Calliches each of which is drawn by two horses, the favorite equipage, all are attracted to this place, sometimes there is music & dancing - the American officers have received all invitations - & it is not necessary to say that they are pretty fond of attending this fashionable resort -

I write my dear sir that on my return I have the satisfaction of paying my personal respects to you & closing my letters correspondence I remain your friend

U. S. Ship Washington

Bay of Naples April 2d 1878

My dear friend

This is the third time that I have written you from this fascinating place. we have a very pleasant run from Messina - our time is spent here in a most agreeable manner, in the day we ride, or walk about the city & visit the curiosities, sometimes take a little excursion into the country - the evenings we generally spend at the Theatres, where we are charmed by the most beautiful singers in europe, & the most splendid scenery, the dancing is unparalleled -

While at Messina I had an interview with the Countess who desired me to let my mind rest on the subject which must distress it - as the time is not far distant when I shall realize all my hopes & expectations, -

I despise such things of consequence to be at the mercy of a man I do not, & am obliged to show him respect - the inclination of my heart & that invincible disposition which is innate in me, will not allow me to wait on the tardy operations of a man who can only be stimulated to exertion, or do a generous action through pride or be governed by self interest -

There are a great number of English belonging to the Squadron here, visiting it - we had a large party yesterday on board, both English & Italian amongst them was a Russian Admiral - the Washington was in fine order & does credit to her country, the Ladies & all the party expressed much satisfaction at the neatness, good order, & regularity, on board, even Johnny Bull can not refrain making remarks favorable to the gaiety boys - we sail this evening for Genoa, where we expect to join the remainder of the squadron -

Ever yours -

U. S. Ship Washington

Gibraltar May the 10th 1815

My dear friend

Our final separation from the squadron has
at length taken place, & we are thus far on our homeward bound
passage — we left Naples the 2d of April, & in four day anchored off
the ruins of Carthage — on the morning of the 6th the Squadron came
in & anchored in very handsome style in a line abreast, in the
afternoon the Consul came down & informed us that the Dutch
were well disposed — on the 13th inst anchored in Algiers bay
the batteries fired a salute of fifteen guns which was returned
our agent informed the com.r that the Dey was well disposed
towards the American government — but that the plague
raged still, from fifty to sixty dying daily — on the morning
of the 14th removed ship & despatches from Algiers — steered
our course to the North.d on the 16th of April 1815 the Islands
of Minorca bearing about W.S.W.r 100 miles our farewell salute
& squadron away for Naples & sun into Mahon — where
we were detained nine days with head winds

we are all making preparations for entering the Atlan-
-tic, the idea of traversing again the pond of Salt water seems like
a dream — & I hope however soon to realize it —

yours sincerely —

U. S. Ship Washington

Gibraltar May 19th

My dear friend

I did not intend to trouble you again till
"we knew not what a day may bring forth" knowing that the changes
which have taken place in my circumstances would be gratifying to you
I hasten to say this before you — on the 19 of may the com.r sent for me
in the cabin, & informed me that he was now about to fulfill
his promise to me — & after a long & anxious conversation dismissed
me, soon after he sent me something more substantial, on entering
appointment as Lieut onboard the U. S. Ship Washington

U. S. Ship Washington

Madeira Road, June 1st 1875

My dear friend

I [illegible] you an adequate idea of the joy & satisfaction, which beamed in every face throughout the ship, when receive orders to unman ship & get under weigh from Gibraltar — a short while from the coast we had moved a very large number of vessels who had been waiting in port from twenty to forty days for a favourable opportunity, it being almost impossible to stem the current which sets through the straits without a leading wind from the eastward — there were now about seventy vessels steering out which made a very handsome appearance the superior sailing of the Washington soon brought us in among them, the brisk freshness of the going down of the sun this fine bright like, upon the surface of the water, we fear we have left them to [illegible]

Our passage to this Island was extremely pleasant The Island from which we lay anchored, presents a most splendid prospect of natural, & cultivated scenery, the great height of the land with the clouds rolling down on the tops of the mountains forms truly sublime, the ocean is tranquil as all nature seems to smile, & I almost envied the honest gardener as he trudged along through the rich orange & lemon groves, surrounded by thousands of little canary birds sporting from tree to tree & chanting their sweet & heavenly notes — the little excursion which I took amidst amongst the gardens & vineyards, was indeed most delightful the air seem as pure, that you seemed to breathe in an atmosphere loaded with rich aromas oozing from the gardens & forest trees —

In our return into Funchal we accidentally met a funeral, curiosity prompted us to witness the ceremony [illegible] to be a priest — ceremony

it would be worth seeing, they took him from where he lay in state surrounded by dozens of huge wax candles, & proceeded to the church chanting Requiems all the way, on their arrival at church when we had preceded them we found to our surprise that they had opened the grave of another priest, & this one was to be interred directly over him, on the arrival of the procession the lead the body down by the grave & performed a short service or prayer, when the body was deposited in his final apartment we all his past wives, dressed out in his shoe & knee buckles, hat & all, without any coffin whatever —

We were visited by several parties of Indians & gentlemen, who were much gratified with the ship — in the roads were anchored several East-Indiamen on their passage out — embarrassed of which were several young, & some of quite interesting ladies, bound out to the East Indies in search of the husbands — I have no doubt this kind of investment would be thought a little too far to go for husbands, by the American fair, still it is a common practice with the English, & frequently without any unhappy consequences —

I know little more about Madeira than what I have seen, & occasionally felt from the effects of the juice of the delicious grape which is found here in such abundance — Were the gaols as perfect as in ancient days, there is little doubt but Mr. Beckford would make this his seat of government —

Madeira lies in Latitude 32° 38' North Longitude 17° 5' west Funchal is the principal town, it is very pleasant inhabited town, built with taste & has it is in delightful environs on the east of the country — the situation of the town is well chosen being surrounded by high hills on all sides, which when highly cultivated must render it a delightful residence —

Most truly yours &c

U. S. Ship Washington

New York July 20th 1818

My dear Sir

We who are worshipers at the shrine of that gracious Goddess — Liberty, know best to estimate the goodness of Him who has blessed (we Americans) with so great a share of it. judge then what were the feelings of one of her most devotion ees, when he first trod his native shores after an absence of more than two years, & that time spent among the Spaniards, Italians, & the worthless race of Africa, where Slavery reigns triumphant — it is impossible to describe the gratitude which we all felt when the well known shores about Sandy Hook was descried on the 5th of July, we were disappointed this time in sailing in our attempts to get in on this day previous, but the winds would not be governed by us & we were obliged to submit to fate, we were on soundings — & it was some satisfaction to feel ourselves grounded; if we could not see, or enjoy it in any other sense — At Meridian we fired our lower deck guns in gratitude for our Independence — with as much good fellowship, & thanksgiving, as you did ashore, no doubt, but not quite so much pleasure

Our passage across the Atlantic was attended by light winds generally, which lengthened it to forty three days — on the ground banks however we did not escape some severe weather, which is usual —

We are now moored in the north river off the battery exhibiting the ship to those who please to look at her, they do not come in what you would call flocks, but by twos & threes — they, however seem to enjoy it so truly that it is a pleasure to conduct them in different parts of her & explain the various articles of which she is composed —

U.S. Ship Washington

New York Dec. 17th 1818

Sir

Mr. O. H. Whipple at present on acting Lieut. on board of this Ship is anxious, in obtaining his commission to secure his rank from the time he has been acting. This I think would be only justice to a very promising young Officer —

Mr. Whipple has served with me about three years & has always conducted himself to my satisfaction — & I can assure you Sir, that he is very competent to take charge of a deck as a Lieutenant — I have the honor to be

with respect your obt. Servt. —

The Hon. Secretary of the Navy

signed J. Chauncey

New York Dec. 24th 1818

My dear Sir

This letter will be handed you by Mr. O. H. Whipple of the Navy, he visits Washington on business respecting his promotion, which he will explain to you —

I have known Mr. Whipple from early youth, & beg leave to commend him to your protection as a young Officer of great merit & promise, he entered this service from the most honorable motives, & has performed his duty with a manly zeal & fidelity — As he has nothing but his own talents & virtues to attract the notice of his superiors I trust there will be sufficient to secure your protection & favour —

Any attention you may find it convenient to bestow upon him, will be regarded by me as a personal obligation of great weight

I am with great respect & esteem

Com. Decatur

your faithful friend & servt.

signed Jno. Whipple

New York dec^r 24 th 1818

Dear Sir

I take the very great liberty of introducing to the honor of your acquaintance my friend Lt Whipple who visits Washington on business —

I leave with great confidence recommend him to your notice & protection, as I know him to possess those solid qualities which you know so well how to estimate, I have been acquainted with him from early youth, & though his modesty will not allow him to be the herald of his own merit — yet I am sure you will be able to discover it —

With my own & Mrs W — best respects to Mrs Rodgers, I remain with great esteem & respect your sincere friend & faithful servant —

Com^o Rodgers — (signed) H W —

New York dec^r 24^th 1818

Dear Sir

I beg leave to introduce to the honor of your acquaintance my friend Lieut Whipple of the Navy who visits Washington on business connected with his situation in the service —

From a long acquaintance I can recommend Mr Whipple to your notice as a promising officer, & as one of great merit & respectability - any services you may render him will be bestowed most worthily — & that I know will be a sufficient motive to secure him your protection —

Permit me to congratulate you on your re-election, & believe me to be faithfully & sincerely your friend & servant —

Hon^ble John Gaillard signed H W —

President of the senate —

New York dec^r 24^th 1818

Sir

I take the very great liberty of introducing to your acquaintance Lieut Whipple of the Navy, who visits Washington on business, & to whom I beg leave to recommend to your notice & protection as a young Officer of great merit & promise —

I have the honor to be with great respect & consideration your Obt Humble Servt —

signed

Hon^ble Smith Thompson
Secretary of the Navy —

New York dec^r 24^th 1818

Dear Sir

I take the liberty of introducing Lieut Whipple of the Navy & who visits Washington — & solicit to whom I did myself the honor to write you a few days since —

I beg leave to recommend him to your attention well knowing your desire to distinguish & reward merit in the service

Any attentions you may show M^r Whipple will be regarded by me as an obligation of great weight, which I shall be glad to acknowledge on any occasion in my power —

I am with great respect &c

Benj^n Homans Esq^r
Navy Department —

Washington city jan^{y} 1st 1819

Sir

Agreeable to your request I do myself the honor to call at your lodgings this evening, relative to the appointment at present in your hands, which you were pleased to assure me this morning should be confirmed —

As I feel it my duty to return orders of the Washington immediately, it will not be in my power to receive the acknowledgement before I leave the city — therefore I hope Sir you will be pleased to endorse it with the appointment to me in New York —

Hon^{ble} Smith Thompson
Secretary of the Navy —

Respt I have the honor &c &c

U. S. Ship Washington
New York april 22^{d} 1819

Sir

I am advised by the hon^{ble} Secretary of the Navy to state to you that the appointment as acting Lieut, was acknowledged by him, & is now in the office, he assumes that by writing to you I should receive it without delay — he was under the impression that it had been enclosed to me some time since — I hope you will be pleased to send it by return mail —

I am respt &c &c

Benj Homans Esqr

U. S. Ship Washington
New York nov^{r} 2^{d} 1819

Sir

When I had the honor of applying personally to you for active service, you was pleased to grant me permission to make a written application for the Columbus —

of order to that ship will not interfere with your arrangements it is most sincerely hoped that you will permit me to go onboard of her as your Lieut — As this measure has been confirmed by Com. Bainbridge, & rendered highly necessary by my great anxiety to go the experience & become proficient in the profession I have chosen, I feel some confidence of success —

It has been universally acknowledged by the principal commanders in the Navy, that there is no such thing as youth among midshipmen — Therefore I see no reason why any of that class of Officers should complain that fortune has placed me above them — or that I should not serve onboard of the same ship as Acting Lieut — when agreable to the regulations of the Navy I am entitled to the same privileges of a commissioned Lieut — & should it be fairly investigated the case in all probability would appear that they had not experienced that hard service that I have, many who were two or three years in the Navy before they performed their duty —

Not Sir, that I wish to detract from the merit of any officer, neither, do I wish them to depreciate my own — I presume you are well aware Sir that the laws & customs of the Naval service allows me to act in that capacity — & as I placed over a Midshipmen older than myself in service, I should endeavour to remove all prejudices & ameliorate all unpleasant feelings that might occur in consequence of the difference of our situations — but I hope nothing of this kind will happen to prevent my receiving orders to the Columbus, as that ship is the most desirable for me to be onboard of —

I am with high

Respt & consideration

your Obt Servt

Hon" Smith Thompson

Secretary of the Navy

U. S. Ship Washington

New York dec^r 4^th 1819

Sir

Allow me the honor of renewing my application for the Columbus, I hope you will be pleased to take into consideration the great length of time I have been out of service — & the absolute necessity there is for my being actively employed, before I can establish my character as an officer worthy of holding a rank in the navy of the U. S. — & which never can be effected while idly passing away the most important moments of my time on shore —

I am perfectly sensible of the numerous applications for the ship, & the small hope I have of success — but when I reflect on the exertions I have made, & the assurances of the Secretary, I feel some confidence of success —

I remain with great respect & consideration your Obt Servt

Hon^ble Smith Thompson
Sec^y of the Navy

Navy Department
26^th April 1819

Sir

I inclose you a copy of the honorable Secretary's letter to Commodore Chauncey, announcing his appointment of you as Acting Lieut, until you shall be nominated to the Senate for promotion, when you will receive a Commission; no further appointment is necessary in this instance, you being Informed of the letter of appointment to Commodore Chauncey —

I am respectfully your Obt Servt

Benjamin Homans

D. N. Walker
Act Lieut
U. S. Ship Washington
New York

Copy

Navy Department

January 15th 1814

Sir

You are hereby authorized to constitute Wm. Whipple, as an acting Lieut, on board the Ship Superior you commond,

I am respectfully, Sir

your very Obt servt

Smith Thompson

Comr Isaac Chauncy
Commanding Station
Sackets Harbour

(Signed)
Attest
John H. Pleasants — Register

The Honorable the Secretary of the Navy having ordered the Subscribers to Board & examine by virtue of authority invested in him under the rules & regulations for the government of the Navy of the United States, They do hereby certify that in compliance with said rules & regulations they have examined Wm. Whipple a Midshipman & found his qualifications such as to justify their recommending him for promotion.

U S Ship Washington
Harbour of New York
October 23d 1819

(signed)
John Rogers
Wm Bainbridge
Commanders

This is to certify that Midshipman Wm Whipple attended the Board for the examination of Midshipmen at New York from the fourth of October 1819 to the twenty third day of the same month inclusive —

(Signed) John Rogers

Navy Department
30th Nov. 1819

(30)

(a) Directed to this place and referred jointly to Captains Isaac Hull & Wm. Bainbridge the Port Ships Columbus 74 under his command

I am very &c &c
(signed) Smith Thompson

(a) Wm. Bainbridge
Captain U.S. Navy
New York

(b)

U.S. Ship Columbus
St Marys near Norfolk 1820

My dear friend

You see by the News orders that I have succeeded in obtaining orders for this Ship, notwithstanding the numerous applicants & the annoyance & delicacy attending such an undertaking — viz a personal interview which I had with the Sec[retary] not long since it appeared that some Midshipmen were ordered to the who were older in service than myself, & he felt a delicacy in ordering an act[ing] Lieut, under those circumstances, in my application to him I endeavoured to explain away his apprehensions on this subject & that it would be unbecoming to those gentlemen — I have my orders & shall do my duty —

You have learned before this I presume that Mr. Hist examination & mine have taken place, & that I was unfortunate as to obtain a certificate, not withstanding the severity of the examination

The Columbus draft about as you may

since from Washington when she was built, this bay is about twenty miles from the mouth of the Potomac, no one can discern what can be the object in sending this ship here to fit for sea - at so great a distance from any Naval depot. it is an large bay surrounded by land & not dependent by nature against the winds or an enemy —

Your obt servt &c

U. S. Ship Columbus
St Marys, June 13th 1820

Sir

I proceed to New York & assist Captain Samuel Angus at the Rendezvous in recruiting seamen & ordinary seamen for this, both officers & boys we are now in want of, ship mine but some healthy men — in Blues —

very respt your Obt servt
John H Elton

signed

1st Lieut Commdg

U S Ship Columbus
Gibraltar bay April 27th 1820

My dear Sir

The Columbus has commenced & we should be at sea in the course of the day, as I shall in all probability be absent from America some years I feel a strong wish to express to you my gratitude for the innumerable attentions you have shown me both in private & public life.

were I qualified to express what my heart would dictate, I am confident that I could convince you that was I allied to you by the strongest ties of consanguinity it would be impossible for me to feel more fondly the

such a indelible impression which your friendship has made upon my mind, no time or circumstance can ever erase it from my memory —

Your powerful influence in my favour at the seat of government as a candidate for promotion & also for this Ship have the desired effect — & there is no doubt that it was the principal cause of my eventually gaining those great objects — whatever may be my situation in life either good or bad fortune, I shall ever esteem you my friend, & I most sincerely hope that I may never prove unworthy of that sacred name —

We stopt down to this place on saturday last (near Cape Henry light) the Columbus is manouvering works extremely well, & if we may judge from her velocity in a light breeze she will prove one of the finest sailers in the Navy — her movements are most majestic I assure you —

I believe it will be to my advantage to remain in the mediterranean three or four years & I shall make every exertion to effect this object, the Commodore seems at present disposed to favor it —

May prosperity attend you in every situation through this life, be pleased to remember me most respectfully to Mrs Preston & Edward —

I have the Hon^{r} &c &c

U. S. Ship Columbus
Gibraltar June 4th 1820

My dear friend

Again we are separated by the vast Atlantic, our passage across was attended by those vicissitudes common to a sailors life — storms, gales, & calms, success-ively assailed us, sometimes we were labouring under

storm staysails against a head wind & high sea, yet on the
time for both a perfect calm, with the sails hanging heavily
about the masts — & this immense mass of timber & line stuff
at the mercy of the waves, now & then the lazy dolphin spout-
ing about the bows, seemingly counting minutes in the light
foam excited by the movements of the ship

On our arrival here we learned that the
squadron was in some port of Italy, but in what, not
we could not ascertain, therefore must run the chance
of finding them

The qualities of the Columbus are not so
great as we expected to find them, she does not work with
that facility which other ships of her class have led us to
calculate for — we shall hope to find that we may be in
some measure mistaken, when she is manoeuvred with
the vessels, as this is the most proper method to prove her —

The ocean is so delightful that we enjoy it,
and all its productions in the highest degree after
a long cruise at sea — all the fruits of this luxuriant
climate is now in delicious.

Your Ob servt &c &c

U. S. Ship Columbus

Leghorn June 23d 1820

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My dear friend

As I am now traversing the same
cruising ground which I so often took in the Washington
that I fear my letters will soon become insipid, & de-
-duction of no pleasant encomiums on the scenery of the
subject — however you must bear with me a little longer
as I soon hope to open a new field to your view, far
distant perhaps from the present scene of action —

We sailed from Gibraltar, with a strong breeze

...on the assurance - in the evening passed close in by the city of Mahon when we anticipated anchoring, but the wind proving to fresh & we continued on our course on the 14th stood into the bay of Algiers, made the city but have no communication - arrived in this port on the 22d - as Leghorn is altogether a commercial place there are very few attractions for those whose object in visiting Italy is knowledge. Pisa, Pisa, Florence & their vicinities generally attract travellers - as I have been at the latter place some time & described it to you, Pisa will be my next object, after we are cleared from this most infernal quarantine -

Ever yours &c

U S Ship Columbus
Leghorn July 5th 1820

My dear friend

When I took leave of you in America in March last you was pleased to express a wish that I should address you on my arrival in Italy - how happy should we feel at your flattering, were I not conscious of my inability to interest one so deeply read as your Ladyship - & particularly on subjects which I should be obliged to dwell - However, indifferent as I am at delineation I will make every exertion to gratify you, should I fail in the attempt, I feel confident that your own goodness will generously excuse my ignorance -

Yesterday, we celebrated the Independence of our County, with those feelings of gratitude towards the great dispenser of all good, who has in the plenitude of his mercy bestowed upon us the mighty blessing of Liberty, the Liberation which I hope will ever be the governing principle of every free American -

At the rising of the sun the day was ushered in by a motion-
=al salute – at 8 o'clock when the ships were dressed in all the flags of different nations – the appear-
=ance was truly magnificent – at Meridian another
similar salute was fired – in the evening the sea will
=ness by illumination all in honor of the glorious anniversary

Pisa = I shall now give you some little account
of this once interesting & influential place – as being the most
ancient city of Italy, it stands in the centre, some of whom
about fourteen miles from the sea, bounded on the north
by a branch of the appenines & at the south open to the
Tuscan sea – in the tenth century it was at its zenith
& declared itself independent & became a great republic
its fleets were triumphant on the Mediterranean the
principal harbour was at the mouth of the Arno
which runs through the centre of the city – it contained
one hundred & fifty thousand inhabitants – at length
Florence became its rival in grandeur, & the great
influence of the Medici family produced its fall.

The streets are spacious straight & clean, & paved with
large flag stones, the houses are lofty & commodious, the
external appearance very favourable to the character of
Architecture of the age – the Arno or former & the streets
running through the city render it clean & cheerful in its

On the banks of the river, partly in the street, &
near the centre of the city stands is a singular edifice in
the gothic style called Santa Maria della Spina – which
the priests say is resembling one remains even of those which
was founded him, or some such stuff as this – its appear-
=ance is rather singular, from its exterior, being very low with
an innumerable parcel of little Obelisks rising from
the roof, resembling in some measure thorns, it is
made use of as a chapel —

Pisa was certainly the most interesting city in Italy, many of the Italy buildings are more than half the year unoccupied, in the winter season it is sometimes the resort of invalids who seek a healthy spot — It however still contains some of its ancient greatness in the celebrated leaning tower where the beauties of Architecture are so strongly exhibited, this + the cemetery + the Cathedral + the chapel form one beautiful group, are an extensive plain

The leaning tower as it is called is one of the most extraordinary monuments of ancient Architecture now existing — it consists of eight stone or colonnades supported by pillars of different orders, entirely of white marble its elevation is one hundred & eighty feet, leaning fourteen feet from a perpendicular height — whether by design of the architect, or by accident still doubtful it is of a circular form, thirty feet in diameter & has winding stairs to the summit — The prospect from the top defies all description, the sublimest powers of a Raphael could not paint to you in their true colours the scene which is presented, the extensive plain in the highest state of cultivation has the appearance from this elevated situation like one immense garden — at a distant view you have the sea of Tuscany which adds greatly to the lovely prospect

The Cathedral celebrated as having been built of the ruins of ancient temples in Egypt, the pillars are of oriental granite, it is altogether a Beautiful church & is ornamented with some fine paintings — the altar are of superb variegated marble — built in the eleventh century

The cemetery is a very gothic building of a light airy structure, also contains within

of white marble of beautiful architecture - there are here many Roman sarcophagi containing the ashes of the most illustrious citizen of Pisa with inscriptions explanatory of their rank & situation in life time —

The centre is formed of Earth brought from the Holy land by the galleys of Pisa in their prosperity, from which it took its name of Campo Santo

The church is a very handsome building in the form of an octagon extravagantly furnished & decorated with the highest polished marble, particularly at the which stands upon & is supported by four Lions of the most masterly workmanship - there are no other curiosities in Pisa worthy notice —

Sincerely yours &c &c

U. S. Ship Columbus
Naples July 11th 1820

My dear friend

Sincerely have we enchanged in this bay, when the English vice consul came along side requesting to see the Com.r, on the most important business - the amount of it was that there had been a revolution in the city & some of the country towns, & it was expected that the night would terminate it with a horrible massacre, & that the King own body guard had taken possession of the Palace & made His Sicilian Majesty, our prisoner - & much other news of equal import which was given, at first supposing us to be Englishmen

It appears the object of this Revolution was to establish a Constitutional government which His Majesty was decidedly averse to — it had been in agitation for some months - the instigation & prime movers of all the principal machinery is as I said above

home is therefore given as opinion called Colo-
General Riego seemed to be the military leader in
the contemplated Revolution - the whole undertaking appeared
to good order in which the whole affair was conduc-
-ted gave it a favourable character & led us to suppo-
-se that the plans were well laid - this day we
understood was appointed as the most proper one
for the revolutionists to take possession of the
city, and to become a spectator in such a glorious
undertaking, myself & several other officers of the
ship obtained permission to visit the shore -

About twelve o'clock the troops were seen
manoeuvring descending from the ship, the van of
which were entering the city, while the rear were in
full view winding round the hills, their bright arms glittering
in the sun -

Nothing could exceed our gratification
in witnessing the march of the troops through the Puerta
del Toledo, the principal street, the tops of the houses
the windows, & the balconies, were filled with Ladies
waving their white handkerchiefs encouraging & cheering
the soldiers as they passed - while they seemed much
worn down with a long march under a hot
meridian sun, but in excellent spirits shouting
"Viva the Constitution & the King" which was responded
from all quarters. The tri-colour flag, of black red & blue
waving in every Regiment - The Host Christ in the
centre enthroned receiving the grateful greetings of
the whole population - whenever they raised any of our
officers hats la Americana was shouted - about
half past twelve entered the city this day & passed
within the Royal palace - in the balcony were stationed
the principal of the Royal family (except the
King who was indisposed) overlooking the troops

& appeared by welcoming them with bows & smiles, with their hats off — when at the same time I suppose in their hearts they were cursing them for all, the mutinous & revolutionary set of villains that ever knew the impudence to assert their rights as men —

Judge what my feelings were when I saw the Royal flowers lowered from the blest tribune through my vein the most pleasing emotions to possession of my mind that I ever experienced, I shan't mention myself one of those very Italians who were enamoured themselves from all slavery — what an moment of pleasure it was to hear those peasants thousands of them just from the slough in the very face of Royalty — cry long live the Constitution

In the evening after the two had all peaceably marched off to their quarters without the least disturbance Illuminations, fine works, & rejoicings of all kinds took place — & continued every night during our stay — The following day the King signed the constitution & good order seemed to reign through the City —

The summit of Vesuvius has changed considerably since I was here in 1818 — then one frequently during the night light eruptions which emmerged in a long & tedious watch — The vengeful flashes & bursting forth of the light flame attract the attention & tend to while away the lingering hour —

Preparations are making for our departure much to our regret I assure you — it is now a most interesting moment to be here, the fate of the City — the old King whose fate it seems are not yet decided & I feel much inclined to remain & see what will be the result of this mighty affair — the Com.d is however anxious to go & as he reigns in our little world we must cheerfully obey

Yours truly

U. S. Ship Columbus

Syracuse July 21st 1820

My dear friend

We took our departure from Naples on the 16th inst, presuming that we were bound to Messina but no such thing, we continued our course until we got nearly on the southern shore of Sicily & yesterday we anchored in this port having through between Malta & Cape Passaro—

We learn here the the revolutionary mania is not altogether confined to Naples, Palermo has become a scene of bloodshed & rebellion not however particularly connected with the Neapolitans — even in this insignificant place a regiment has taken the liberty to march out of the gates killed & mortally wounded two of their officers & swore that they would not serve longer — This disaffection however did not arise from any principles of Liberty, but some other cause of less consequence — The inhabitants have so little confidence in their medical men that when the above officer was wounded they immediately sent for an surgeon, who was dispatched ashore in the night — 20th — the Peacock & Sporting at length arrived so that our little squadron is now altogether the Guerriere having gone home from Lisbon — I have been employed in surveying this harbour by order of the Com.r & have got a pretty correct sketch of it —

27th — on our arrival at Gibraltar I felt anxious to join one of the small vessels, knowing the advantage I should gain by such a measure not only in my profession, but I was well aware that I should see more foreign places, as one of their boats probably on some service most of the time

the inactive life which I then enbaumed of this vessel was not at all congenial to my feelings - & I was sensible this thing would be censured could I but once change - I knew the hazard of displeasing would be unavoidable was he an objection as he very much disliked to have officers when once under his command make application for a change - I was a young an officer enbaumed of this ship & as many about me that my chance was very small of gaining the enjoyment which was necessary, therefore I made the application, & it was as I expected the Com.r cavilled a little at first, frowned &c - mentioned the impropriety of young officers frequent applications for changing &c &c after some conversation to little effect - he observed that I might consult my inclination when I was - that he should not give me orders to any other vessel — Thus on our arrival in this port to my surprise & pleasure he sent me orders to the Sparke —

Ever yours

N. I. Brig Sparke
Gibraltar September 1820

13

My dear friend

The squadron sailed from Syracuse about the 27th of July, made Corfu by the 1st of augt this vessel was in & had communication with the Consul who gave favourable accounts of our affairs - The Barbarians were very desirous of seeing the Com.r - he told the consul that he believed him to be an honorable man, however once when he was a prisoner after the loss of the Philadelphia permitted him to go onboard of a vessel for four hours & returning within the limited time without any other guarantee than his word of honor - which produced many high encomiums on him - &c &c

[illegible] Rodosto, & proceed down by Constantinople on the 10th, two Islands, & arrive at Smyrna in the morning after communicating with the consul here. We sailed on the 15th — on the 18th first arrived Minorca & anchored in Mahon — remained here 24 hours & made sail for this port where we arrived on the 31st — We are now on 2 head quarter meeting preparations for a most interesting cruise & shall probably be absent from the Gibraltar nine months

On the 2nd visited St Roche a small Spanish town about six miles from Gibraltar, our party was extremely pleasant — after dinner, we witnessed a Bull fight which was gratifying, & some parts of it extremely unpleasant as there were a horse & a Bull murdered — the Amphitheatre was crowded with Ladies, who instead of being disgusted seemed more pleased than the other sex —

[illegible]

U.S. Brig Spark
Malta Sept 29th 1820

My dear friend

We arrived here last evening on our way to Smyrna, anchored in the quarantine harbour. this morning landed some to Post La valette at 9 o'clock visited the Rockfort — Admiral Sir Graham Moore — to regulate the salute my orders were then to call on the Lieut Gov Sir Thomley Bowen, who very politely assured that he would answer our salute gun for gun, made some enquiries relative to that, and we took leave & at when I left him must please with the manners of his manners & Politeness the appearance on my return onboard we solicited

the Government with 17 guns & the Admiral with 11 which are returned by both with equal number – I mention these particulars to you, because an regulation in the Navy are thus strict with all foreign powers – our object in anchoring in this port was to ascertain the quarantine from Smyrna, as we intend stopping here on our return –

The Island of Malta is in Latitude 35° 54' N Longitude 14° 29' E – The port of La Valette has not its superior in the World for Ships of any size can moor here with perfect safety, it takes its name from the Grand Master of that name, who defended the Island with so much Gallantry in the 15th century –

We sail early in the morning therefore I shall have no opportunity of visiting the curiosities, which are so numerous here – when We return you shall hear more from me expecting This

yours ever affectionately

U. S. Brig Spark
Milo October 8th 1820

My dear friend

It gives me great pleasure to address you from one of the Grecian Islands – we anchored here yesterday for the purpose of procuring a pilot to take us through the Archipelago – a strong easterly wind does not admit an inducement for us to make a harbour

Milo lies in Latitude 36° 41' N Log 24° 50' E it is one of the finest harbours in the mediterranean or Archipelago, my Lieutenant compared it to Gibraltar, from the wind & forms one quiet basin which will hold the largest fleet in the world – on the opposite side to the entrance is a sandy beach, where are baths & hot springs, which are resorted to by invalids –

I made a small excursion onshore the town of Milo. is about two miles from the bay we found it a miserable dirty hole, not half the houses inhabited, some stone houses having deserted them about two or three years previous - the houses are one story high & going fast to ruins - we marched round the Bay & Promontories to ascend to the town upon the pinnacle of a rock, the passage to it was over precipices, hills & deep vallies - the houses are absolutely one above the other owing to the steepness of the rock upon which they stood, the object in building it here was to protect themselves against the frequent attacks of the pirate to plunder & carry off the young females - slaves

We were treated with unbounded hospitality the short time we remained - whatever house we stopped at, would soon be crowded with all the neighbours to see such curious creatures as the Americans - we being the first that ever had visited this little domain - they pressed us in the strongest terms to remain the evening & they would assemble all the fair girls & give us a ball, this extreme politeness however we were obliged to refuse -

Nature seemed to have been extravagant in her favours among the Greek females, who are much more beautiful than any women I have ever seen in any country - I mean their forms particularly their forms were not so good - their complexions were of the most delicate texture - the hair & cheek chestnut very long & most beautifully braided & intwined in a small light timber which were placed gracefully upon the head - the eyes not the bold expression of the Italians, nor so black - but very dark, mild & expressive, figures exceptions, the nose of the grecian cast, the mouth, teeth & chin perfect in themselves

the "tout ensemble" of the scene was of the most charming cast in nature's mould — I am now not surprised that the ancients were so perfect in their Statuary, if they have such models to copy from — as we passed up the steep narrow passage which led to the house of the pilot of our vessel who was our conductor — the doors, windows balconies, & tops of the houses were thronged with these Adonistes — The prospect from the summit of the rock on which stands a greek church — commands the most distant & sublime view; all the Islands in the archipelago are seen in this grand prospect —

About five years ago the priests from the Convent attached this little town, but were beat off with considerable loss — they revenged themselves upon a French brig in the harbour by plundering & murdering the crew —

The manners of the inhabitants are extremely simple & unpolished — when a stranger enters their humble dwelling they do not tell their hospitality but freely entertain him with good cheer

The Governor is chosen from among the people, which however must be sanctioned by the grand Seignior

Our dear pilot who was father to two lovely Girls was an honest greek & seemed to be a Patriarch among this good people, he conducted us through these celebrated Islands with a skilful hand — we passed between & in sight of; Crete, Negreia, Tino, Delos, Zea, Stenophalia, Paros, Siphanto, Serphs & Scio all famous in Ancient story — The passage between Scio & the main was extremely interesting, the shore of the Islands presenting a — being beautifully diversified with, towns, villages, gardens & a rich cultivated country, containing all the variety of fruit trees bending under their delicious burdens — This Island is famous for the Amenity & chastity of the women —

Pardon Mawney Whipple Letter Book 1813-1820

USS Constitution Museum
Boston, MA

CONDITION ON RECEIPT: The full rigid parchment binding was worn and deteriorated. The boards were warped. The parchment was stained and discolored. The parchment was detached from the boards, and the board was soft and weak along the lower portion of the binding where the water damage was most significant. There was visible mold growth on the back board and pastedown. In addition, there was evidence of insect damage to the surface of the parchment on the spine and boards. The internal hinges were broken. The text block consisted of ruled pages with entries in manuscript ink and occasional marks in graphite pencil and red ink. The red ink had migrated and was visible on the reverse of the leaves. Sixty pages at the end of the text block had no entries. Rules were very faint. Eight-folio gatherings were sewn onto three parchment slips. The sewing was broken and some leaves were partially detached. The pages were dirty, discolored and acidic. Leaves were stained and the paper was soft and pulpy as a result of water damage. There was mold growth on some of the leaves in the text block. Many pages had small tears along the edges and at the folds. Several tears had been repaired with pressure-sensitive tape that had discolored the paper. A newspaper clipping was attached to a page with glassine and with discoloring pressure-sensitive tape. A small hand-painted cut-out portrait was adhered to a page; a portion of it was missing. The red inks appeared soluble in ethanol and water.

TREATMENT PERFORMED: Written and photographic documentation was provided. The volume was collated and disbound. The pages were vacuumed to remove mold (fungal structures). The inks were tested for solubility. The pressure-sensitive tape was removed mechanically and residual adhesive stains were reduced with acetone. The portrait was removed with local applications of moisture. The head, tail, and pages were surface cleaned where necessary. The red ink was reduced using ethanol. The pages were washed in a solution of ethanol and filtered water, alkalized (deacidified) with calcium hydroxide and sized with a solution of gelatin. Tears were mended and folds guarded where necessary with Japanese kozo paper and wheat starch paste. The portrait was reattached using wheat starch paste and methyl cellulose. Handmade paper endsheets with linen hinges were attached. The volume was sewn on ramie tapes and parchment slips using linen thread, and was bound in full parchment using a limp structure. The newspaper clipping was placed in polyester film sleeve and a buffered folder. The volume and folder were housed in a custom phase box.

Northeast Document Conservation Center
Job #: 11.285B.2
September 2013
MPB/ JHH